

Details on the origin of this report

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

Public and private sectors, NGO's, academia and research institutions dealing with the various components of biodiversity resources were consulted and the consultative process eventually resulted in the preparation of a first draft of the Second National Report (SNR). The report was tabled to all stakeholders in view of any further amendment. The draft report was then finalised in the light of comments received.

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for the Republic of Mauritius, the First National Report along with various other national reports and papers produced by the concerned Ministries and Organisations formed the basis for the SNR.

Information on any particular circumstances in Mauritius that are relevant to understanding the answers to the questions in this report

Mauritius has a total land area about 2000 km² and an economic exclusive some of 1.9 million km². Being a small island developing state with its own characteristics such as, high population density (600 per km²), limited land mass, remoteness, prone to natural calamities, limited natural resource endowments and a high ratio of coastline to land area, Mauritius is very much different from the other African countries.

Mauritius has a multi-cultural society. The inhabitants of Mauritius are descendants of immigrants from the major continents namely, Africa, Asia and Europe and all the major religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam are practised. There is no tribal indigenous people practicing traditional lifestyle in Mauritius.

Over the last three decades, the Mauritian economy has been cited as a "success story". With annual growth rates of over 5 % and a per capita income of US\$ 3,900 in 1999, Mauritius has graduated to the group of upper middle-income countries. It topped the list of African countries in competitiveness in the African Competitiveness Report of 1998 and it was ranked 29th in the World Competitiveness Report of 1999. The country was ranked 59th on the Human Development Index Basis with life expectancy at birth of 71.4 years, adult literacy of 83 % and real per capita income of US\$ 9,310 (PPP). The Gross Domestic product (GDP) at current factor cost was expected to attain Rs 84, 439 million.

Mauritius has also achieved a fair degree of diversification in its economic activities. Agriculture, manufacturing and tourism have emerged as the three main pillars of the economy. The fourth pillar of the economy, the quaternary services sector, which represents 12 % of total output, is being expanded in view of making Mauritius a regional financial hub.

The tropical climate, geological and topographical regimes over million of years of isolation and adaptation have resulted in the evolution of diverse biota with a high degree of endemism. However, with the human settlement some four centuries ago and interferences, biodiversity resources are unfortunately characterised by extensive habitat degradation and high rates of species extinction.

Relative priority accorded to established COP programmes of work.

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Agricultural biological diversity

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

Forest biological diversity

7. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	X
b) Medium	
c) Low	
8. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

As biodiversity encompasses all genetic resources and their ecosystems, and so as to reflect the Mauritian specificity as well as the various CoP Decisions about issues and components that need to be considered, six thematic sectors were devised to be taken forward in the development of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the Republic of Mauritius. These are:

- Forest Biodiversity;
- Terrestrial Biodiversity;
- Agricultural Biodiversity (Agro-biodiversity);
- Biotechnology;
- Freshwater, coastal and marine Aquatic Biodiversity and
- Sustainable Eco tourism Development.

The thematic sectors were assessed in the national context with the collaboration of all stakeholders through a series of national and thematic workshops. Understanding the root causes for the gaps was fundamental in devising the most appropriate solutions. As part of the strategy development process, it was necessary to translate priority gaps and problems into a set of priority actions. The biodiversity action plan thus developed will bridge the gaps and issues while achieving the targeted national vision and goals.

Article 5 Cooperation

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as and as appropriate, cooperate with other Contracting Parties, directly or, where appropriate, through competent international organizations, in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction and on other matters of mutual interest, for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Scientific and technical Cooperation with various other Contracting Parties and through international centres and regional bodies have always been accorded a high priority in the area of biological diversity. Various scientific and technical cooperation programme have been implemented through grant aids from international donors, bilateral and regional cooperation as well as many others are underway. However, resources are limiting.					

13. Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) bilateral cooperation	
b) international programmes	
c) international agreements	X

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

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

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

15. Has your country developed management practices for transboundary protected areas?	
a) no (Not Applicable)	X
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
d) not relevant	

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Question 13

The Government of Mauritius is also signatory to a number of International Conventions relating to Conservation, Sustainable Use of biodiversity, and Fair & Equitable benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. These include

1. Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (1946);
2. Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas (1958);
3. African Convention for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources (1968);
4. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (RAMSAR) (1971);
5. Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972);
6. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), (1973);
7. UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) (1982);
8. UN Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (BASEL) (1989);
9. UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), and
10. The Convention to Combat Drought and Desertification in Africa (1995).

The Government is also member/ Party/ Signatory to the following organisations/ committee/ commission:-

1. FAO and Commission on Plant Genetic Resources;
2. Inter-African Phytosanitary Council of the Scientific and Technical Commission of the OAU;
3. Committee for Agricultural Collaboration of the Mascarene islands;
4. The World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Government also has strong ties with a host of international organisations listed below. There is memorandum of understanding with some of these organisation.

1. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (UK);
2. World Centre for Bird of Prey, Peregrine Fund (USA);
3. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF);
4. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (UK);
5. Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh (UK);
6. Flora and Fauna International, and
7. International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP).

Collaboration with International Agricultural Research Centers

Improved genetic material from International Agricultural Research Centers have been introduced in Mauritius and they are:-

- Maize germplasm from International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre;
- Bean from International Centre for Tropical Agriculture;
- Cowpea from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture;
- Ground nuts and pigeon pea from International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics;
- Potato from International Potato Centre, and
- Vegetables from Asian Vegetable Research & Development Centre, and
- Technical assistance from the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute.

Bilateral relations and Regional Cooperation

Mauritius has established many bilateral relations in the field of biodiversity and plant genetic resources. A few of these are:

1. Indo-Mauritian Commission covering exchange of sugarcane germplasm between Mauritius and Coimbatore (India);
2. Between the CIRAD (La Réunion, France) and the AVRDC;
3. Mauritius and China in the field of Medicinal plants;
4. Indian Ocean Commission Countries with regards to a number of Projects, namely,
 - Inventory and study of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the States of the Indian Ocean.
 - "Programme Regional Environment " which contains some actions for the conservation of the endangered species and development of an Integrated Coastal Zone management framework and other marine conservation/ management programmes.
5. South African Development Community (SADC) - Wildlife Sector. Mauritius recently ratified the SADC Protocol on Wildlife Conservation & Law Enforcement and is implementing a number of ongoing projects namely,
 - The SADC Forestry Sector Programmes which aim at strengthening and improving the forestry sector by way of training programs and the setting up of a SADC Tree Seed Centre Network.
 - The SADC Project for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources in the SADC Countries, and

Mauritius is also benefiting from technical assistance and participating in joint programmes with the SADC Plant Genetic Resource Centre.

Fisheries Agreements and collaboration

Mauritius has so far signed fishing agreements with the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Seychelles. The protocol to agreement with EU provides for fishing possibilities to 42 ocean going purse-seiners, 25 Gross Registered Tonnage /month on an annual average for vessels fishing by line and 40 surface longliners. The fishing

agreement between Mauritius and Seychelles allows up to five Mauritian purse seiners and one longliner to be licensed to fish in the waters of Seychelles.

Mauritius is also a member of the Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organisation (WIOTO) with its seat in Seychelles. Mauritius is a signatory to the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC), based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. For the conservation and exploitation of marine resources at the Chagos Archipelago, Mauritius and the United Kingdom have set up the British Mauritian Fisheries Commission.

14 (b) The Government of Mauritius signed the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement on the 26th October 2000 and it came into force as from 1st January 2001.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

Each Contracting Party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities:

(a) Develop National Strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes which shall reflect, *inter alia*, the measures set out in this Convention relevant to the Contracting Party concerned; and

(b) Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Though the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan is a recent study, biodiversity concerns have always been high and consideration by the Government of Mauritius have been expressed in numerous national reports and other long term planning reports such as the National Environmental Strategies for the coming decade and the National Long Term Perspective Study - Vision 2020, amongst others.

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?

a) none	
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b) early stages of development	
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c) advanced stages of development	X
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21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?

a) none	
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b) early stages of development	
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c) advanced stages of development	X
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22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?

a) some articles only	
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b) most articles	
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c) all articles	X
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23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?

a) no	
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b) some sectors	
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c) all major sectors	X
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d) all sectors	
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Decision II/7 and Decision III/9 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

22. As biodiversity encompasses all genetic resources and their ecosystems, and so as to reflect the Mauritian specificity as well as the various CoP Decisions about issues and components that need to be included in the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP), six thematic sectors were devised to be taken forward in the development of the NBSAP for the Republic of Mauritius. These are:

- Forest Biodiversity;
- Terrestrial Biodiversity;
- Agricultural Biodiversity (Agro-biodiversity);
- Biotechnology;
- Freshwater, coastal and marine Aquatic Biodiversity and
- Sustainable Eco tourism Development.

These thematic sectors were assessed in the national context with the assistance of all stakeholders. Gaps and pressing issues thus identified by diagnosing their causes have been translated into operational strategies with a set of priority actions designed to bridge the gaps and issues.

The NBSAP report presents a national vision and strategic goals to achieve the vision. It is a fully consultative product that has been developed through a fully participatory approach while building consensus among stakeholders to crystallize the most appropriate biodiversity strategy and action plan for the Republic of Mauritius.

The report carries forward and extends the substantial achievements in the sector of biodiversity in Mauritius. It presents a national biodiversity strategy for the coming ten years (2001- 2010) supported by an action plan for the coming five years.

Major contributions have been made by key sector Ministries and organizations represented in the Planning Team , Other Ministries, NGOs, Academics, Parastatal and Private sector have contributed by providing information, reviewing the draft report and participating in three national workshops (2 for Mauritius & 1 for Rodrigues) and six thematic workshops organized as part of the national consultative process.

29. The National Parks and Conservation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources is the national focal point for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biodiversity, the CITES and the Ramsar Convention as well as for the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement. This has significantly reduced duplication in the implementation of the conventions.

As indicated above, Mauritius is not a party to the Bonn Convention, however it has signed and ratified African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, in particular for the purposes of Articles 8 to 10:

- (a) Identify components of biological diversity important for its conservation and sustainable use having regard to the indicative list of categories set down in Annex 1;
- (b) Monitor, through sampling and other techniques, the components of biological diversity identified pursuant to subparagraph (a) above, paying particular attention to those requiring urgent conservation measures and those which offer the greatest potential for sustainable use;
- (c) Identify processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and monitor their effects through sampling and other techniques; and
- (d) Maintain and organize, by any mechanism data, derived from identification and monitoring activities pursuant to subparagraphs (a), (b) and (c) above.

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Investigation of environmentally sensitive areas, including ecosystems and habitats has been identified as one of the priority projects that is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with all local stakeholders. Identification and monitoring remains a priority for Mauritius and these are being undertaken by government and parastatal organisations responsible for the respective biodiversity sectors either through local or international supports. However, resources are limiting.

32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)?

a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened & endemic species)	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	

33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?

a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X (Marine parks)
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	

34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)?

a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors (mainly for Agro-biodiversity)	X
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	

35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
(a) minimal activity	
(b) for key groups (such as threatened and endemic species) or indicators	X
(c) for a range of major groups	
(d) for a comprehensive range of species	

36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	

37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	X
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	

38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	X
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	

39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities with regard to biodiversity resources	X
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a major extent	
e) reports on implementation available	
43. Has your country adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7 with initial emphasis on identification of biodiversity components (7a) and activities having adverse effects on them (7c)?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	X
44. Is your country cooperating with other Contracting Parties on pilot projects to demonstrate the use of assessment and indicator methodologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes (if so give details below)	
45. Has your country prepared any reports of experience with application of assessment methodologies and made these available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
46. Is your country seeking to make taxonomic information held in its collections more widely available?	
a) no relevant collections	
b) no action	
c) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

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

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	X
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	

48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	
d) yes - other means (please specify)	
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	X
b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Further comment to question 45:

The need to have a computerised data base that would enable wide dissemination of taxonomic information was identified few years ago. However, actions could not be implemented because of either shortage of staff or limited funding.

Identification, monitoring and assessment of biodiversity resources in some of the sectors are being effected through joint programmes between the responsible public and/or private organisations, NGO's and Academia. In sector such as marine biodiversity, there are numerous inventory, identification and monitoring programmes that are in placed and are being implemented with international assistance. There are also various other programme that have been devised for the monitoring of threatened and endangered flora and fauna both for mainland and offshore islets. However, the degree of monitoring varies in the various biodiversity sectors.

The use of indicators is becoming more and more apparent in most sectors. In sectors such as forest and marine biodiversity, basic indicators are currently being used. The Ministry of Environment has already initiated activities with regards to recruitment of international consultants for the setting up an Environmental Information System and establishment of indicators for the various media including sensitive areas and ecosystems as a priority project under the second Environmental Investment Programme.

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	
b) early stages of assessment	
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	X (partly completed)
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
b) some opportunities	X
c) significant opportunities	
54. Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections?	
a) no	
b) some investment (planned activities marine aquatic flora)	X
c) significant investment	
55. Is your country encouraging partnerships between taxonomic institutions in developed and developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes - stated policy	X
c) yes - systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections (at the level of Mauritius Herbarium)	X
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	X
b) yes - in the previous national report	
c) yes - via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	Refer to comment
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
d) yes - significant extent	X (At regional level)
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	X
b) some	
c) many	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

49 and 50. National taxonomic needs assessment have been partly completed by the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute which is also the national focal point for the Global Taxonomy Initiative.

A taxonomic needs assessment was briefly discussed in thematic consultations that were held during the preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The need for a national marine herbarium was identified during the NBSAP consultative process. Actions have been planned in line with the recommendations in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Mauritius.

52. So far Mauritius has encouraged/ benefited from multilateral training on taxonomy practices and maintenance of collections.

58. The budgets for governmental and parastatal institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are met through local funding. Presently, all services provided to the public are free.

There are some taxonomic activities that are also funded as part of certain a regional project. One example is the project named “***Flore des Mascareignes***” (details are provided below).

67. Mauritius participated in the development of a regional networks as part of the Project named “***Flore des Mascareignes***” covering the flora of Reunion Island and Mauritius including Rodrigues. The implementation of the project started in 1974 and was scheduled to be completed within a time frame of two decades. In the late 90’s, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute received some funds from the European Union under the “*Programme Régionale de l’Environnement (PRE)- Commission de l’Ocean Indien*” for the editing of the remaining fascicles under the ongoing project.

By the end of year 1999, only some 20 fascicles were published. As the funding of *Programme Régionale de l’Environnement* has been closed, the “***Flore des Mascareignes***” project is still not yet complete.

Article 8 *In situ* conservation [excluding Articles 8h and 8j]

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and appropriate:

- (a) Establish a system of protected areas or areas where especial measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;
- (b) Develop, where necessary, guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity;
- (c) Regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity whether within or outside protected areas, with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use;
- (d) Promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings;
- (e) Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas with a view to furthering protection of these areas;
- (f) Rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems and promote the recovery of threatened species, *inter alia*, through the development and implementation of plans or other management strategies;
- (g) Establish or maintain means to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts that could affect the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account the risks to human health;
- (i) Endeavour to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components;
- (k) Develop or maintain necessary legislation and/ or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations;
- (l) Where a significant adverse effect on biological diversity has been determined pursuant to Article 7, regulate or manage the relevant processes and categories of activities; and
- (m) Cooperate in providing financial and other support for *in-situ* conservation outlined in subparagraphs (a) to (l) above, particularly to developing countries.

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

In situ conservation in the various biodiversity sectors are considered amongst the utmost priority issues. In some sectors, though funding may be secured, other resources such inadequate institutional and enforcement capacities may be considered as strong limiting factors.

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?

a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	
d) relatively complete system in place	X

73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	X
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X
76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	X
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place (for some sectors)	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place (mainly for endemic fauna and woody flowering plant)	X

79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review (through the forthcoming Genetically Modified Organisms Bill)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
80. Has your country made attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (8i)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	
d) yes, to a significant extent	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

71. The protected areas in Mauritius includes

- 16 Nature Reserves covering some 2.5% of the area of Mauritius and ranging from 1.5 ha (Perrier Nature Reserve) to 253 ha (Flat Island) proclaimed under the Forests and Reserve Act, 1983.;
- The first national park, namely, the Black River Gorges National Park was proclaimed on the 15 June 1994 under the Wildlife and National Parks Act, 1993. It has an area of 6574 ha and it includes two of the Nature Reserves;
- Nine extensively managed Conservation Management A ranging from 1.75 ha to 19 ha found within the Black River Gorges National Park ;
- About 6,553 ha of privately owned Mountain and River Reserves;
- A wetland reserve of 26 ha as a wetland habitat for migratory birds;
- Two marine parks of 353 ha and 485 ha at Blue Bay and Balaclava respectively;
- Six fishing reserves proclaimed as marine protected areas under the Marine Resources Act, 1998, and
- 49 offshore islets (of which seven are already proclaimed as Nature Reserves under the Forests and Reserve Act, 1983) some of which are internationally known for their unique flora and fauna. These islets have been classified into strict nature reserve (with high endemism), open nature reserve (with conservation potential and control tourism), tourist and recreational sites, and passive reserves.

72. An outline of guidelines exist for national parks under the Wildlife and National Parks Act, 1994.

75. There are measures such as

- Provisions of buffer zones in areas adjacent to protected areas;
- Application of Detailed Outline schemes that guide spatial development in an area;
- Application of Environmental Clearance or an Environmental Impact Assessment processes by competent Authorities to undertakings whose proposed location is situated adjacent to protected areas.

79. Certain measures/ incentives exist under the forestry , agro- biodiversity, fisheries and marine resources sectors that provide conditions needed for the compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

80. National Legislation pertaining to Biodiversity Conservation

There are several pieces of the National Legislations that provide for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. A legal framework exists for the protection of key habitats, nature reserves and restoration of some of its unique ecosystems. Some of the most important ones are:

Primary Legislations

- a. The Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998;
- b. Wildlife and National Parks Act 1993, the National Parks and Reserve Regulations of 1996, and the Wildlife Regulations of 1998;
- c. Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1991 and its subsequent amendments;
- d. Forests and Reserve Acts, 1983;

- e. Maritime Zones Act, 1977;
- f. Plants Act, 1976;
- g. Removal of Sand Act, 1975;
- h. Continental Shelf Act, 1970;
- i. Shooting and Fishing Leases Act, 1966;
- j. Town and Country Planning Act, 1954 and
- k. Pas Geometriques Act, 1895.

Secondary Legislations

- a. National Coast Guard Act, 1988;
- b. Plants (Pest and Disease Control) Regulations 1984.
- c. Plants (Importation and Exportation) Regulations, 1976;
- d. Female Sea Turtles (Prohibition of Import) Regulations, 1950 and
- e. Botanical Gardens (Pamplemousses) Regulations, 1945 and Botanical Gardens Regulations 1922.

A draft bill governing biosafety is presently under preparation.

Significant efforts have been made in halting terrestrial and marine habitats destruction, through legislations, public education, new investments and active collaboration with NGOs. Various pieces of legislations such as the Wildlife Act (1983) and the Fisheries Acts (1980) were repealed giving rise to the present legislations. Numerous institutions concerned with the conservation, protection, management and sustainable use of biodiversity resources including the Police and Customs Departments are enforcing these legislations.

However, some of the legislations are still found to be inadequate especially with regards to the provisions made under the various Conventions to which Mauritius is party. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources is presently working on appropriate amendments to the Forest & Reserves Act (1983) and the Wildlife & National Parks Act (1993) to eliminate overlap of responsibilities and to provide for more severe penalties against contravenants. The possibility of consolidating the control of deforestation on privately owned forests which at present does not fall within the ambit of existing legislations is also being considered. The Environment Protection Act, 91 is also in the process of being completely reviewed by the Ministry of Environment.

83. Some of the salient in-situ activities that have been undertaken in Mauritius both with and without financial support from international agencies.

Black River Gorges National Park

This project resurfaced in 1988, under the first Environment Investment Program (EIP 1). The proclamation of the Black River Gorges National Park took place in June 1994 under the Section 11 of the Wildlife and National Parks Act 1993. The boundaries of the park enclose an area of 6574 ha. A visitor centre, an information centre, two-field research stations have been completed and the Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary (ex- Captive Breeding Centre) has been expanded and improved as part of the project.

Conservation Management Areas (CMA's)

There are nine extensively managed plots, Conservation Management Areas (CMAs) as they are called, ranging from 1.75 ha. to 19 ha. within the National Park totalling an area of 44.0 Ha (representing These CMAs are fenced and a low stonewall built to exclude deer (*Cervus timorensis*) and pigs (*Sus scrofa*). Weedings and uprooting are effected manually at a frequency of three to four times/ year) are undertaken. The sporadic weeding of the CMAs, before the creation of the National Parks and Conservation Service, did slow down the degradation of the native forests by the invasive weeds.

The control of the alien invasive species in these CMAs has proved to be very promising. Many endangered endemic plants are regenerating naturally and they are providing better habitat to the endemic birds. The CMAs are

being used by the endemic Pink pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) and the Echo parakeet (*Pstittacula eques* (echo) for nesting and foraging.

Some chemical control have also been tried within one of the CMAs by volunteers from Raleigh International during six weeks in 1993. Chinese guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) and privet (*Ligustrum robustum*) were cut with machetes at about waist height and herbicide was applied to the stump by small brush at a concentration of 10% (one part Garlon to 9 parts water) and a few drops of Rhodamine dye were added for identification purposes. The conditions were generally moist during this period and not ideal for application of Garlon. Other attempts at control of the two invasive plants by using Garlon at a concentration of 20% did not give positive results as the herbicide only retarded the formation of new shoots.

Restoration of highly degraded and threatened native forests in Mauritius

The purpose of this project was to halt degradation of native forests caused by invasive exotic weeds and to restore to the extent possible the original structure and functions of forest ecosystem. Funding to the tune of US \$ 200,000 was provided by UNDP/GEF. The project was a three-year pilot phase project that commenced in June 1996 and successfully completed in June 1999.

Outcomes

1. Following an international consultative workshop of top ecologists and weed control experts in September 1997, organised by the National Parks and Conservation Service, the use of herbicides (on experimental basis) to control exotic plants namely Chinese guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) and Privet (*Ligustrum robustum*) was one among various recommendations made. The experiment was carried out over experimental plot of 0.6 Ha out of 6ha of the study plot. The final result indicated that growth was slowed down.
2. The proceedings of the Consultative workshop has been published.
3. Capacity building in biodiversity assessment and monitoring effected through a three one –week training workshop organised by the University of Mauritius for undergraduate students and representatives of other stakeholders.
4. Biodiversity assessment in 6 Ha of the study plot.

Lessons

1. The time span of the project which was for a period of five at conception stage (before approval) was reduced to three years without any change in scope and objectives. As a result, the third component of the project that comprised of extending the outcomes of the field experiment to the 6 ha of the study plot could not materialised.
2. In the project write up, youth groups were given the role to carry out weeding in the experimental plots. It did not work as they were not available continuously through out the weeding exercise.
3. The weeding exercise was contracted out through funding provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources.
4. A full time Technical Officer had to be appointed by the executing agency to undertake the field experimentation.

Establishment of a first wetland Reserve and a migratory bird sanctuary for Mauritius

The Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird sanctuary (RTREBS) was declared as a Nature Reserve on the 27 August 1999 by the Government of Mauritius. This area which is located on the outskirts of Port Louis harbour and occupies an area of 26 ha mostly of mud flats and muddy sand. Around 1000-1200 birds visit RTREBS each year representing 11 regular species and 4-5 vagrant species (Bird count 1997, NPCS unpublished). The objective of the project is to preserve the estuary as a wetland habitat for migratory birds, preserve its biodiversity components especially the marine life and promote eco-tourism and develop the area for bird watching, recreation and education.

The wetland at Rivulet Terre Rouge estuary has been proposed as a Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention. The Secretariat has already notified the Government of Mauritius about the acceptance of the instrument of ratification.

Offshore Islets

There are 49 offshore islets that surround Mauritius. Some of them are internationally known for their unique flora and fauna. As far as management of the offshore islets is concerned, *in-situ* conservation and restoration works are well underway on Round Island and Isle aux Aigrettes. However, it is felt that a coherent long-term plan for the remaining islets be drawn up, which will cater for the different demands in a coordinated way.

Marine Parks

In October 1997, the Blue-Bay (353 ha) and Balaclava (485) Marine Parks were proclaimed. A long-term monitoring programme at these two parks has been established and monitoring works are being carried out regularly at the different permanent stations, so as to track any significant change over time. Data on coral, benthos, substrate cover and fish population are collected, compiled and analyzed. Physical, chemical and bacteriological properties of water as well as sedimentation rate are also monitored. Coral bleaching in 1998 was observed and studied in the lagoonal patch reefs, back reefs and fore reefs at Blue-Bay and Balaclava Marine Parks respectively.

Fishing Reserves

Six Fishing Reserves namely Port Louis Fishing Reserve, Grand Port Fishing Reserve, Black River Fishing Reserve, Poudre d'Or Fishing Reserve, Poste La Fayette Fishing Reserve and Trou d'eau Douce Fishing Reserve have been proclaimed as Marine Protected Areas in July 2000 under the Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998.

Article 8h Alien species

Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitat or species.
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86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?
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a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
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87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
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Since 1976, a legislation on quarantine measures which consist mainly of phytosanitary and pathological aspects was enacted. However, the regulatory framework is largely inadequate especially with regard to biosecurity measures related to movement of alien/ exotics species into Mauritius as well as between the mainland (Mauritius) and the offshore islets and Rodrigues. In order to render the control mechanism and quarantine measures more stringent and efficient, the present legislation is under review.

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?

a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) only major species of concern	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) only new or recent introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
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d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
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e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	<input type="checkbox"/>
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89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?
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a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) most alien species have been assessed	<input type="checkbox"/>
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90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?

a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) potential measures under review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

91. Is your country collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional, sub-regional and international levels to address the issue of alien species?
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a) little or no action	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) discussion on potential projects under way	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) active development of new projects	<input type="checkbox"/>
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92. Does your national strategy and action plan address the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

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

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

99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives (National workshops/seminars, pamphlets)	X
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels	National Reports
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	
b) limited support (at the national level)	
c) substantial support (through active participation and reviewing of documents)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Over the last centuries there has also been various deliberate or inadvertent introduction of exotic plant and animal species by early settlers in Mauritius. Some of these plants and animals have turned out to be so invasive that they threaten the very existence and survival of the native forests. As there were no native ground-dwelling mammals in Mauritius, the introduced mammals have had a particularly devastating effect on the ecosystems. Monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*), rats (*Rattus rattus* and *Rattus norvegicus*), pigs (*Sus scrofa*), and deer (*Cervus timorensis*) are directly detrimental to the native vegetation, and are either indirectly or, together with the lesser Indian mongoose (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*), directly detrimental to the native fauna.

As native plant species are notorious for their slow growth, plantation of exotics was resorted to. By then, a lot of fast growing exotic species had been introduced and are growing well. These exotics have changed the physiognomy of the Mauritian landscape forever.

There are also an Integrated Pest Management programme and a Fruit Fly control programme that are being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources in collaboration with competent stakeholders. These long term programmes are contributing significantly towards control of some of the important alien pests in Mauritius.

89. Refer to comments made under previous section on Conservation Management Areas (CMA) as a mean to exclude alien species. There is also a pilot project underway which is aimed at testing the suitability of “super fence from New Zealand” in the Mauritian Context. Should the result proved to be positive, then the next phase would be creation of wider CMA (of the order of 250 ha or more) using the “super fence” technology.

99. Several national workshops/seminars have been organised by competent organisations in collaboration with research institutions, NGO’s and the University of Mauritius to disseminate results and discuss the issue of alien species Mauritius. The NPCCS has also prepared and disseminated a number of pamphlets relate to this issue.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

Subject to its national legislation, respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge, innovations and practices;

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
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104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

There is no indigenous people/ communities in Mauritius. The inhabitants in Mauritius are of African, European and Asian origin.

Crop varieties and farm animal breeds have been introduced since the start of agriculture during the first settlements (some four centuries). These introduced varieties and breeds have been responding to the prevailing conditions in the country through genetic adaptation. Simultaneously farmers have been selecting for specific traits suitable for their needs. This material may possess adaptive characteristics, which may be needed again for less favoured environments or low-input agricultural systems, thus making their conservation worthwhile.

The existing agricultural biodiversity for Mauritius and Rodrigues therefore comprises the old varieties and breeds, the adapted genetic material as well as the range of new varieties that is regularly evaluated for higher performance in research programmes. Only a few wild relatives of economically important crops are found in the wild.

105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place (in agro- biodiversity sector)	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?

a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

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

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

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

112. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in the annex to the decision, and identified how to implement those tasks appropriate to national circumstances?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	

114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	

115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	

116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes (for other relevant activities such as preparation of NBSAP)	X

117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	

118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	

119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	

120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) some measures (For fisherman communities)	X
d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) development in progress	
d) register fully developed	
122. Have representatives of indigenous and local community organizations participated in your official delegation to meetings held under the Convention on Biological Diversity?	
a) not relevant	X
b) not appropriate	
c) yes	
123. Is your country assisting the Secretariat to fully utilize the clearing-house mechanism to co-operate closely with indigenous and local communities to explore ways that enable them to make informed decisions concerning release of their traditional knowledge?	
a) no	X
b) awaiting information on how to proceed	
c) yes	
124. Has your country identified resources for funding the activities identified in the decision?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) partly	
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources has identified the need to devise appropriate pieces of legislation 'sui generis' so as to promote conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity resources .

It is also worth noting that the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre has produced a draft "sui generis" version for all the SADC member states. National cross-sectoral consultation involving all stakeholders is underway and it is anticipated that draft legislation for Mauritius will be on agenda of the National Assembly in early 2002.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, and predominantly for the purpose of complementing *in-situ* measures:

- (a) Adopt measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity, preferably in the country of origin of such components;
- (b) Establish and maintain facilities for *ex-situ* conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms, preferably in the country of origin of genetic resources;
- (c) Adopt measures for the recovery and rehabilitation of threatened species and for their reintroduction into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions;
- (d) Regulate and manage collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species, except where special temporary *ex-situ* measures are required under subparagraph © above; and
- (e) Cooperate in providing financial and other support for *ex-situ* conservation outlined in subparagraphs (a) to (d) above and in the establishment and maintenance of *ex-situ* conservation facilities in developing countries.

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Ex-situ conservation activities have been complementing *in-situ* conservation in Mauritius. *Ex-situ* activities have therefore remained a high priority. With regards to availability of resources, in most of the sectors, there are well established facilities which are operational.

127. Has your country adopted measures for the ex situ conservation of components of biological diversity *native* to your country (9a)?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X

128. Has your country adopted measures for the ex situ conservation of components of biological diversity *originating outside* your country (9a)?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?

a) no	
b) yes	X

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Some of the important *ex-situ* activities carried out are:

Conservation of genetic resources

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food technology and Natural Resources are operating numerous *ex-situ* facilities such as plant propagating centre, arboretum, field gene and seed banks, nurseries among others. Many of the facilities have benefited from both technical and financial supports from international agencies.

A plant recording system has been developed using a computer programme for the careful monitoring of plants in the wild and nursery. The construction of a fern-propagating centre at Curepipe and which was partly funded by the UK Government under the Darwin initiative for the survival of species scheme has been completed. The objective of the fernery is to propagate rare ferns in Mauritius and to reintroduce them in their suitable managed habitat.

Mauritius Herbarium

Since 1959, the Mauritius Herbarium is housed at the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute and it comprises some 25,000 sheets mounted specimens. It also houses a unique assemblage of publication, manuscripts, original sketches, paintings relating to the original flora and maps. The collection includes plant materials collected from the three Mascarene islands and from islets including Agalega, St Brandon, and the Chagos Archipelago. The flora collection of the Mascarene is nearing completion with the financial assistance from European Union funding and will be an important tool for the identification of local plant species.

Botanical gardens

Five botanical gardens exist in Mauritius and among them are the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical gardens at Pamplemousses and Curepipe. The Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam Botanical garden at Pamplemousses has an area of about 60 acres with some 500 plant species. It harbours a collection of native plants that are known to naturalists throughout the world, thus making it among the most visited tourist sites in the Indian Ocean. A medicinal plant garden has also been established.

Captive Breeding Centre (Gerald Durrell Endemic Wildlife Sanctuary) - Black River

The Captive Breeding Centre at Black River established in 1973 is the main facility for the rearing of endangered endemic birds. It has been renamed as the Gerald Durrell Wildlife Sanctuary after the late Gerald Durrell. The facility was upgraded in 1996/7 and now it comprises of the following aviaries: 32 cages for Pink Pigeon (*Columba mayeri*), one parakeet flight aviary, 15 cages for Eco Parakeet (*Psittacula echo*) and 5 cages for the Rodrigues Fruit Bat.

A captive breeding programme was set up by the Government with the help of international organisations since 1976 as an immediate measure to rescue three critically endangered species of birds. Besides the captive breeding programme, a release programme was initiated with additional management techniques in place such as, supplementary feeding, provision and monitoring of nest boxes, double clutching and control of animal pests in the wild.

The Pink Pigeon which had a population of 30 - 40 individuals nesting in an introduced *Cryptomeria* plantation (*Cryptomeria japonica*) is now some 400 birds.

The Mauritius Kestrel (*Falco punctatus*) was once the rarest bird, with a population of only 4 birds in 1974, as a result of pesticide abuse, the population is now estimated to be 800 birds.

The Echo Parakeet (*Psittacula echo*) is the last surviving parrot in the Mascarenes. It was considered as the rarest parrot in the world. The population which was about 12 individuals in 1987 is now about 120 birds.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

- (a) Integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;
- (b) Adopt measures relating to the use of biological resources to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity;
- (c) Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;
- (d) Support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced; and
- (e) Encourage cooperation between its governmental authorities and its private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological resources.

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Sustainable use remains one of the objectives of all competent organisations dealing with biological resources. In some sectors, facilities (equipment and basic infrastructure) are in place while in others, institutional and enforcement capacities are limiting. The Government of Mauritius and the public services have always been prompt in providing appropriate support to private sector managing biodiversity resources as well as taking biodiversity sound decisions in halting adverse environmental impact on the our ecosystems.

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	

140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?

a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X

141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures	Not applicable
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place (in Rodrigues)	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place (through agreements and MoU)	X
e) review of implementation available	

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

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

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

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
147. Has your country assisted other Parties to increase their capacity to implement sustainable-use practices, programmes and policies at regional, national and local levels, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	
c) to a limited extent	X
d) to a significant extent (please provide details)	
148. Has your country developed mechanisms to involve the private sector and indigenous and local communities in initiatives on sustainable use, and in mechanisms to ensure that indigenous and local communities benefit from such sustainable use?	
a) no	
b) mechanisms under development	
c) mechanisms in place (please describe)	X
149. Has your country identified areas for conservation that would benefit through the sustainable use of biological diversity and communicated this information to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

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

153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	
b) yes (mainly sensitisation and public awareness campaigns)	X
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes (mainly sensitisation and public awareness campaigns)	X
155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Further comment to question 138: National Conservation and Environment Policy Framework

The Government of Mauritius, aware of the rich biogenetic diversity (both terrestrial and marine) of the natural resources, initiated actions as far back in the early 70's when Sir Peter Scott who visited the island at the invitation of the Government of Mauritius in 1973 wrote a report entitled " Conservation in Mauritius" which was to become the forerunner to the work of the IUCN's " Conservation in Mauritius - 1974" by John Proctor and Rod Salm. They took cognizance of the approved forest policy, the laws pertaining to the environment that existed, the work carried out to protect the environment, both terrestrial and marine, and the various constraints that existed.

As there was rapid deterioration in the state of the fauna and flora of the Mascarene Islands and in the wake of the Laws of the Sea Treaty, in the 70's, interest in the Indian Ocean and its natural resources grew and culminated in the cooperation among the Indian Ocean and eastern African Countries to initiate several important conservation programmes and committees.

In 1985, Government of Mauritius published a White Paper for a "National Conservation Strategy" (NCS), in which the major objectives for the conservation of its natural resources were based on the same objectives as the World Conservation Strategy, namely,

- (i) to maintain essential ecological processes and life support system (for example soil regeneration and protection, the recycling of nutrients, and the cleansing of waters) on which human survival depend;
- (ii) to preserve genetic diversity (especially where is a broad genetic path for scientific work) ;
- (iii) to ensure the sustainable utilisation of species and ecosystems, for example, fish and other wildlife, forests and grazing lands.

Some of the priorities to attain the above- mentioned aims and objectives were as follows:-

- (a) Avoid extinction of endangered and threatened species of flora and fauna by providing sound planning, allocation and management of land and water uses supported by an on-site preservation in protected areas and an off-site protection such as zoo's and botanical gardens
- (b) preserve as wide a genetic diversity as possible of many varieties of the same plants and animals
- (c) preserve as many habitats as possible
- (d) maintain existing nature reserves and to find new ones
- (e) co-operate with international bodies in the furtherance of biosphere reserves
- (f) expand large conservation management areas to other key biodiversity hot spots areas.

(g) encourage the protection of wetlands and river reserves.

In the wake of the rapid economic growth experienced in the country and the growing concerns about the degradation of the environment in 1988, Government organised a Technical Seminar on the Environment with the assistance of the World Bank to discuss key environmental issues facing the country. The outcome was a comprehensive first Environmental Investment Programme (EIP 1) to address key issues in the first National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP 1). The EIP 1 comprised of 32 projects with various components including institutional strengthening, land management, tourism, industry, solid waste, agriculture, marine and terrestrial conservation & management. The latter also contained a number of biodiversity projects funded by various international agencies including the World Bank and Overseas Development Agency (UK) among which was the setting the country's first National Park to conserve endangered endemic species of flora and fauna and the proclamation of two Marine Parks.

In 1991, Government published a White Paper for the National Environment Policy that gave a commitment to attaining sustainable development which would safeguard welfare and also pursue conservation, ecosystem preservation and environmental quality goals by focusing on monitoring, managing and enhancing the natural system. Government shall also conserve and enhance the quality of the natural heritage of the State of Mauritius including wildlife, biotic diversity and sanctuaries for specific habitats such as mountains, forests, lakes and rivers amongst others.

The policy was reviewed in *Vision 2020* ("The National Long Term Perspective Study" carried out in the 1997 by the then Ministry of Economic Development & Regional Cooperation) which seeks into the development prospects of the country in year 2020. It formulated the challenge for the next 25 years towards establishing a Resource Management Approach that requires the management of the entire ecosystem and to evolve to Environmental Management. This would be based on the modeling of interactions between the economy and the environment as part of an holistic approach.

In order to reiterate its commitment to sustainable development, protection and management of the environment and natural resources, in 1999, the Government of Mauritius through the Ministry of Environment prepared a National Environmental Strategies for the next decade comprising of a second 10 year National Environment Action Plan (NEAP II) and its supportive Second Environmental Investment Programme (EIP II) based on the outputs and lessons learnt from the NEAP 1 and the EIP 1. In recognition of the crucial role that broad-based consultations and consensus-building must play in the formulation of the National Environment Strategy, the Ministry of Environment established several working groups that assisted with the formulation and refinement of the strategies identified for various priority sectors of which Terrestrial Biodiversity & Conservation and Integrated coastal zone management were included. The reports (NEAP II, EIP II and Review of Legal & Institutional Frameworks for Environmental Management in Mauritius) under National Environmental Strategies for the next decade have already received the approval of the National Environment Commission and the Cabinet of Ministers early this year to start its implementation. Financial assistances are being sought.

The goal of the National Environmental Strategy can be summarised as follows:

To follow the principles of sustainable development by providing environmental services, encouraging responsible environmental practices and enforcing appropriate environmental standards in order to safeguard the health and welfare, conserve the heritage, and enhanced the quality of life of all the people of Mauritius.

This will require actions in the various sectoral areas including promoting international efforts to protect the global environment, promoting individual responsibilities, implementing a resource management approach and conserving the heritage amongst others by

- ◆ restoration of areas of original ecology;
- ◆ protection of the built heritage;
- ◆ restoration of marine and terrestrial biological resources and rendering their exploitation sustainable and economically rational.

Further comment to question 139:

Various measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity exist at the national level. This includes, *inter alia*,

- legislations including environmental clearances and environmental impact assessments , and
- application of spatial planning guidelines such as outline schemes.

Further comment to question 141:

Measures that have been set in place to help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced were mainly as a compliance requirement to receiving grants from donor agencies such as the European Union and the UNDP/UNEP/GEF. A number of projects have been implemented in the national context involving local communities, NGOs and CBO's in the field of biodiversity conservation and they were funded under the UNDP Small Grant Programme. Examples include production of medicinal plants, upgrading of nurseries, reintroduction of endemic plants in the wild., status of certain endemic species such as *Pandanus heterocarpus*, *Vetivera arguta* and *Latania vershaffeltii* in Mauritius and Rodrigues which are being exploited for the artisanal and handicraft industry.

Further comment to question 144:

Papers regarding status of environment in SIDS such as Mauritius have been submitted to CSD. However , copies of papers have not been transmitted to the Secretariat of CBD.

Further comment to question 147:

In various organisations, there are advisory committees/ council that have been set up comprising of representatives from public and private sectors, NGOs, academia and research institutions amongst others. These committees/council have an advisory role and safeguarding national and global interests.

Further comment on Tourism in Mauritius:

Tourism is the third economic force of Mauritius after the sugar and textile sectors. Tourism is one of the most flourishing industry of the Mauritian economy. The natural attractions of the island have been among the driving forces of tourism. These are basically the pristine beauty of the landscape, the pleasant year-round tropical climate, the turquoise lagoon, the coral reefs and white sandy beaches together with a hospitable population constitute the necessary ingredients for a successful tourism development.

The policy for high class tourism followed by a development strategy which is essentially focussed on quality at all operational levels have carved out a admired position for Mauritius in the choice of holiday resorts.

The number of arrivals has increased from 291, 350 in 1990 to 656,450 in the year 2000, an increase of the order of 10 % annually. Over the same period both the gross earnings and the number of direct employment have experience a multifold increase. Tourism statistics converge to a common indicator that this sector is set to attain an accelerated rate of expansion in the years ahead. The Vision 2020 report anticipates a continued growth in tourism and net tourist receipts, but with a restriction on the extent of tourism development.

It is, however, worth highlighting that the concept of bio-diversity conservation for sustainable eco-tourism development should emerge as a national objective that has the strong support of the authorities, the public and the community at large. An integrated approach thus formulated should help in planning and supporting the protection of biological diversity with emphasizing on education as a central challenge.

Article 11 Incentive measures

Each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity.

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
Some incentive measures already exist in sectors such as forestry, agriculture and fisheries. These are mainly in the form of services and social incentives, provision of free materials and technical advices. The main objectives are to improve the quality of life in Mauritius as well as to promote conservation and sustainable use of resources.							
Other form of incentives such as fiscal incentives also exist in marine resources and fisheries sectors, for investment in new industrial technology that promote protection to the environment, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources.							
158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?							
a) no							
b) early stages of development							
c) advanced stages of development							
d) programmes in place (through inter ministerial committees set in place to examine issue)						X	
e) review of implementation available							
159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectoral activities?							
a) no							
b) some sectors						X	
c) all major sectors							
d) all sectors							

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

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

161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place (in sector such as tourism industry)	X (partly)
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	
162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	
b) planned	
c) some (such as training of fisherman for offshore fishing and fishing around Fish Aggregating Devices. Also for training in agro-biodiversity sector)	X
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) yes (in the form of Environmental Clearance Certificate and Environmental Impact Assessment permit)	X
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means	

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place (for forestry, agro biodiversity and Fisheries sectors)	X
e) review of implementation available	

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

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article**Comment to question 171.**

Most of the incentive measures as well as policy measures are geared towards conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and protection of environment.

In Mauritius, incentives such as social, economic, fiscal measures and technical support already exist at various levels. A major part concerns the use of resources in agriculture and fisheries sectors as well as in restoration activities. The overall goals are to improve the quality of life as well as to promote conservation and sustainable use of resources.

In such instances, there is a likelihood to have some "perverse" incentives that would need to be reviewed in line with objectives of the CBD while promoting new ones in sectors such as flora and fauna conservation.

Article 12 Research and training

The Contracting Parties, taking into account the special needs of developing countries, shall:

- (a) Establish and maintain programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components and provide support for such education and training for the specific needs of developing countries;
- (b) Promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries, *inter alia*, in accordance with decisions of the Conference of Parties taken in consequence of recommendations of the SBSTTA; and
- (c) In keeping with the provisions of Articles 16, 18 and 20, promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Research and training have remained one among the priorities in Mauritius. Research in some sectors such as in agriculture and fisheries have been undertaken for past fifty years.

There are also certain areas where relatively little research works (such as micro organism, insect biodiversity and so on) have been attempted. Availability of fund is one among the major limitations.

Hand on training and ongoing capacity building have been identified as a cross sectoral priority issue for all biodiversity sectors.

175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place (at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels)	X

176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?

a) no	
b) yes (In the SADC regional context as well as under the Programme Regionale de l'Environnement- Indian Ocean Commission)	X

177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent (on flora and fauna of Mauritius)	X

178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent (through active participation)	X
c) yes - significant extent	

<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?	
a) no	Not Applicable
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mauritius has actively promoted and encouraged research for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources. Research on various components of biodiversity has been undertaken mainly by the competent public & private organisations (such as the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute), academic institutions such as the University of Mauritius in collaboration with private research laboratories and some active NGO's. Many of the research have benefited from international supports especially in terms of grants and technical assistance. In some of the sectors, significant progress have been achieved while in others such as micro-organism, insect biodiversity, sensitive areas such as wetlands and caves ecosystems, much efforts need to be concentrated.

With regard to training, modules on biodiversity conservation are been taught as part of various certificate, diploma and undergraduate programmes by the University of Mauritius and the Mauritius Institute of Education. Officers from public and parastatal organisations have also benefited training under various regional and international training programmes.

Training need in certain specific areas have been proposed as part of biodiversity programmes under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

These include fields, amongst others:

1. Taxonomy (Plant, Coral and others aquatic species);
2. Ecosystem Restoration;
3. Alien invasive species management;
4. Herpetology.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

The Contracting Parties shall: (a) Promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biological diversity, as well as its propagation through media, and the inclusion of these topics in educational programmes; and (b) Cooperate, as appropriate, with other States and international organisations in developing educational and public awareness programmes, with respect to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
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180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low			
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
Public education and awareness still remains one of the priorities with regards to environmental and biodiversity management. Though there are some educational institutions that have fully integrated environmental education in the national programmes, resources both in term of financial and educational material are still considered to be limiting.							
182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?							
a) no							
b) yes - limited extent							
c) yes - significant extent						X	
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?							
a) no							
b) yes - limited extent							
c) yes - significant extent						X	
184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?							
a) no							
b) yes - limited extent							
c) yes - significant extent (example is the SADC - Environmental Policy Project that includes water resources and biodiversity management, meant to be used at in five of the SADC member States. Also worked jointly with international Organisations like IUCN and UNESCO)						X	

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

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	
b) significant but not adequate resources	X
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes (such as national tree plantation, and clean up campaigns amongst others)	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes (already included)	X
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	
b) yes (At regional level- for the SADC member states and also for the IUCN)	X
190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant (as english is the official language in Mauritius)	X
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -

192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?

a) no	
b) yes (As part of certain project workshops/seminars,preparation of pamphlets and so on)	X

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

193. Does your country support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans?

a) no	
b) limited support	
c) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Further comment to question 192.

Education, awareness and sensitisation has been identified as one of the common gaps requiring priority attention under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Actions have been recommended to enhance education and public awareness on conservation and management of biological diversity resources. These include, *inter alia*,

- Celebration of international events related to biodiversity and environment at the national level;
- Creation of organisational web sites;
- Organisation of talks/ Seminars/ workshop to disseminate information;
- Organisation of open days;
- Guided tours for teachers and students, and
- Publication of pamphlets, newsletters, posters.

Also refer to further comment provided under Article 12. The Mauritius Institute of Education is amongst the tertiary institutions that provide training to pre-primary, primary and secondary levels teachers in Mauritius. The courses includes components of biological diversity.

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

1. Each Contracting Party, as far as possible and as appropriate, shall:

(a) Introduce appropriate procedures requiring environmental impact assessment of its proposed projects that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity with a view to avoiding or minimizing such effects and where appropriate, allow for public participation in such procedures;

(b) Introduce appropriate arrangements to ensure that the environmental consequences of its programme and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account;

© Promote, on the basis of reciprocity, notification, exchange of information and consultation on activities under their jurisdiction or control which are likely to significantly affect adversely the biological diversity of other States or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, by encouraging the conclusion of bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements as appropriate;

(d) In the case of imminent or grave danger or damage, originating under its jurisdiction or control, to biological diversity of other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, notify immediately the potentially affected States of such damage, as well as initiate action to prevent or minimise such danger or damage; and

(e) Promote national arrangements for emergency responses to activities or events, whether caused naturally or otherwise, which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity and encourage international cooperation to supplement such national efforts and, where appropriate and agreed by the States or regional economic integration organisations concerned, to establish joint contingency plans.

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good	X	b) Adequate		c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Environment Protection Act (EPA), 1991, has proved to be one of the most powerful tools to control development (particularly in sensitive areas) and also in the mitigation of adverse impacts in Mauritius. The Ministry of Environment is presently reviewing the whole EPA specially EIA process making it more effective and transparent while affording greater protection to sensitive ecosystems.

196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?

a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation in place (Environment Protection Act, 1991)	X
e) review of implementation available	

197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?

a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X

198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	X
199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent (through participation in regional and international meetings)	X
200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	
c) some completed, others in progress (mainly for in the fisheries sector)	X
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place (in the context of an Oil Spill)	X
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development (in term of a Regional Oil Spill Contingency Planning Project)	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
e) no need identified	

203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place (example is the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the Port Louis Harbour Oil Spill Response Plan)	X
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) yes (for the Western Indian Ocean Countries Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan which is implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission and funded by World Bank/GEF)	X

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

205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes?	
a) no	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X (mainly through country reports in meetings)
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X (mainly through country reports in meetings)
d) information provided on the national CHM	

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

207. Has your country integrated environmental impact assessment into programmes on thematic areas and on alien species and tourism?	
a) no	
b) partly integrated	X
c) fully integrated	

208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) partly	
c) fully	X
209. When developing new legislative and regulatory frameworks, does your country have in place mechanisms to ensure the consideration of biological diversity concerns from the early stages of the drafting process?	
a) no	
b) in some circumstances	
c) in all circumstances (In all relevant circumstances and it is done through national consultations and interministerial meetings)	X
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	
c) yes - in all cases	X
211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) some programmes in place	
c) many programmes in place (implemented)	X
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?	
a) no	
b) yes (At University levels)	X
213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent (for all major long term planning and strategy projects)	X

214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

211. Training on conduction of environmental assessment is mostly provided at the tertiary level. This is mainly in the form of assignments to students.

213. To a significant extent (except for compensation measures).

With regard to liability and compensation for damages to biodiversity resources, Mauritius is a Party to the Conventions on

1. Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage (CLC) 69 and Protocol 1976;
2. the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (FUND) 1971 and Protocol of 1976.

There are some monitoring programmes in place that may be used to establish trends in the marine aquatic biodiversity resources. There is also provisions in the national legislation for severe penalties as well as compensations against illegal activities regarding the both endemics/endangered flora and fauna.

214. The first schedule of the Environment Protection Act, (EPA), 1991, includes a list of undertakings that warrants an environmental impact assessment license prior to execution of project/ undertaking. This applies to projects implemented by both public and private sectors. Presently, the EPA is being completely reviewed. In that context, the Ministry of Environment organised several national workshops and seminars inviting all stakeholders to discuss the various components of the EPA. The new legislation be presented in the National Assembly in early 2002. The new legislation is claimed to be more flexible, effective, transparent and much severe penalties against contravenants, greater protection to the environment.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

1. Recognizing the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, the authority to determine access to genetic resources rests with national governments and is subject to national legislation.
2. Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties and not to impose restrictions that run counter to the objectives of this Convention.
3. For the purpose of this Convention, the genetic resources being provided by a Contracting Party, as referred to in this article and Articles 16 and 19, are only those that are provided by Contracting Parties that are countries of origin of such resources or by Parties that have acquired the genetic resources in accordance with this Convention.
4. Access, where granted, shall be on mutually agreed terms and subject to the provisions of this article.
5. Access to genetic resources shall be subject to prior informed consent of the Contracting Party providing such resources, unless otherwise determined by that Party.
6. Each Contracting Party shall endeavour to develop and carry out scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties with the full participation of , and where possible in, such Contracting Parties.
7. Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, in accordance with Articles 16 and 19 and, where necessary, through the financial mechanism established by Articles 20 & 21 with the aim of sharing in a fair and equitable way the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilisation of genetic resources with the Contracting Party providing such resources. Such sharing shall be on mutually agreed terms.

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Mauritius has so far favourably considered and under mutually agreed terms and conditions access to its national genetic resources. Whenever, any such request have been made by an international organisation or company, the normal procedure used in such instance, is consultations among the various section of the Ministry concerned before any decision is taken.					

218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) processes in place	
221. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties (15(6))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place (where mentions have been made in Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding)	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

222. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures (no agreement in place)	
b) some measures in place (mainly with regard to sharing of results)	X
c) potential measures under review (Development of sui generis for Mauritius based on OAU model)	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures (through agreements and memorandum of Understandings)	X

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

223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes, within the previous national report	
c) yes, through case-studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details below)	

224. Has your country implemented capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs (mainly through International Training programmes by Centres such as IPGRI and SPGRC)	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
225. Has your country analysed experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, for use in further development and implementation of measures and guidelines?	
a) no	
b) analysis in progress (with the formulation of "sui generis" for Mauritius.	X
c) analysis completed	
226. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent (with all competent organisations)	X
227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes (Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources)	X
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) other arrangements made	
c) yes	X
232. Does your country co-operate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
233. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) legislation under development	X
c) yes	
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	X

235. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	X
b) some information provided	
c) substantial information provided	
236. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	
c) yes to a significant extent (as training at the level of Research Institutions and the University of Mauritius and also provisions of infrastructures for ex-situ facilities)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology & Natural Resources as well as some of the parastatal organisations have benefited from capacity building in terms of equipment, training programmes, management practices and maintenance of *ex-situ* facilities as part of various training programme at the regional and international levels through international centers such as IPGRI and SPGRC .

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

1.	Each Contracting Party, recognising that technology includes biotechnology, and that both access to and transfer of technology among Contracting Parties are essential elements for the attainment of the objectives of this Convention, undertakes subject to provisions of this article to provide and/or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.
2.	Access to and transfer of technology referred to in paragraph 1 above to developing countries shall be provided and/or facilitated under fair and most favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms where mutually agreed, and, where necessary, in accordance with the financial mechanism established by Articles 20 and 21. In the case of technology subject to patents and other intellectual property rights, such access and transfer shall be provided on terms which recognize and are consistent with adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. The application of this paragraph shall be consistent with paragraphs 3,4 and 5 below.
3.	Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, with the aim that Contracting Parties, in particular those that are developing countries, which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which makes use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms, including technology protected by patents and other intellectual property rights, where necessary, through provisions of Articles 20 and 21 and in accordance with international law and consistent with paragraphs 4 and 5 below.
4.	Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, with the aim that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of technology referred to in paragraph 1 above for the benefit of both governmental institutions and the private sector of developing countries and in this regard shall abide by the obligations included in paragraphs 1,2 and 3 above.
5.	The Contracting Parties, recognising that patents and others IPRs may have an influence on the implementation of this Convention, shall cooperate in this regard subject to national legislation and international law in order to ensure that such rights are supportive of and do not run counter to its objectives.

238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
Some of the research institutions have agreements in the form of "memorandum of Understanding" in place regarding technology transfer and joint research programmes with international research centres. Some joint research programme are under implementation.							
240. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment (16(1))?							
a) no measures							
b) some measures in place						X	
c) potential measures under review							
d) comprehensive measures in place							
241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?							
a) no						X	
b) yes (please give brief details below)							

242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?	
a) not relevant	
b) relevant, but no measures	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	X
243. Has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and the private sector of developing countries (16(4))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place (joint programmes with research institutions)	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements (through Agreements Memorandum of Understanding)	X
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no (system not yet in place)	X
b) yes	
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mauritius does not have any legislation or national system for intellectual property rights with regards to biological diversity resources. However there exists some administrative arrangement that enable access and exchange/transfer of technology and information in some of the biodiversity sectors. The exchange of genetic material/transfer of technology are rather between scientific and technical institutions/ centres.

A “sui generis” for Mauritius has reached an advanced stage of development. National and international consultations have been undertaken. According to information gathered, it is anticipated that the piece of legislation shall be introduced in the National Assembly in early 2002.

Various international centres have provided genetic materials (mainly for food crop and sugar cane) for testing of their potential under our local conditions. Results are eventually shared. Agreements for exchange of material (in the form of DNA materials and genes) and transfer of technology also exist between certain local institutions and international private companies.

Article 17 Exchange of information

1. The Contracting Parties shall facilitate the exchange of information, from all publicly available sources, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account the special needs of developing countries.
2. Such exchange of information shall include exchange of results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, as well as information on training and surveying programmes, specialised knowledge, indigenous and traditional knowledge as such and in combination with the technologies referred to in Article 16, paragraph 1. It shall also, where feasible, include repatriation of information.

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>		
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
Exchange of information has remained one of the priorities in the field of resources utilisation and management.							
However in some of the biodiversity sectors, information system and data management require upgrading both in term of knowhow and trainings. Resources with regard to that aspect are limited.							
249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?							
a) no measures							
b) restricted by lack of resources							
c) some measures in place (such as country reports and documentation centres in the various institutions dealing with bd)						X	
d) potential measures under review							
e) comprehensive measures in place							
If a developed country Party -							
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?							
a) no						Not applicable	
b) yes - limited extent							
c) yes - significant extent							
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?							
a) no						Not applicable	
b) yes - limited extent							
c) yes - significant extent							

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

1. The Contracting Parties shall promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, where necessary, through the appropriate international and national institutions.
2. Each Contracting Party shall promote technical and scientific cooperation with other Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in implementing this Convention, <i>inter alia</i> , through the development and implementation of national policies. In promoting such cooperation, special attention should be given to the development and strengthening of national capabilities, by means of human resources development and institution building.
3. The Conference of the Parties, at its first meeting, shall determine how to establish a Clearing-House Mechanism to promote and facilitate technical and scientific cooperation.
4. The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with national legislation and policies, encourage and develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention. For this purpose, the Contracting Parties shall also promote cooperation in the training of personnel and exchange of experts.
5. The Contracting parties shall, subject to mutual agreement, promote the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of this Convention.

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Promotion of technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity at the regional and international levels has been identified as one of the cross cutting priorities in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Mauritius.					
Numerous agreements exist for both technical and scientific cooperation and these are mainly at level of institutions both locally and internationally. There are already numerous joint research programmes that are underway.					

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

256. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?	
a) no	Not Applicable
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	

257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	Not Applicable
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
258. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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

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

263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	
b) participation only	X
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	
b) under development	X
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	X
b) yes	
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

Questions 255 and 258.

As indicated earlier, there are some programmes that are being jointly executed by local and international institutions. The programmes' objectives are somehow in line but not specifically the same as the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Mauritius has established many bilateral relations in the field of plant genetic resources. A few of these are :

1. Indo-Mauritian Commission covering exchange of sugarcane germplasm between Mauritius and Coimbatore (India) as well as with various sugar cane growing countries;
2. Between the CIRAD (La Réunion, France) and the AVRDC;
3. Between Mauritius and China in the field of Medicinal plants;
4. Among countries that are party to the Indian Ocean Commission and which are implementing a number of biodiversity and environment related projects ;
5. Inventory and study of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of the States of the Indian Ocean.
6. "Programme Regional Environment " which contains some actions for the conservation of the endangered species.
7. SADC Plant Resources Genetic Council .

Some of the projects that are being undertaken the SADC include:

- The SADC Forestry Sector Programmes which aims at strengthening and improving the forestry sector by way of training programs and the setting up of a SADC Tree seed centre Network.
- SADC Wildlife Sector and its Wildlife Protocol (Mauritius recently ratified the SADC wildlife protocol).

Fisheries agreement and collaboration

Mauritius has so far signed fishing agreements with the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Seychelles. The protocol to agreement with EU provides for fishing possibilities to 42 ocean going purse-seiners, 25 Gross Registered Tonnage /month on an annual average for vessels fishing by line and 40 surface longliners. The fishing agreement between Mauritius and Seychelles allows up to five Mauritian purse seiners and one longliner to be licensed to fish in the waters of Seychelles.

Mauritius is also a member of the Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organisation (WIOTO) with its seat in Seychelles. Mauritius is a signatory to the Indian Ocean Marine Affairs Cooperation (IOMAC), based in Colombo, Sri Lanka. For the conservation and exploitation of marine resources at the Chagos Archipelago, Mauritius and the United Kingdom have set up the British Mauritian Fisheries Commission.

Activities completed under the marine sector as part of Regional and International Co-operation Programme

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) project (European Union funded) established an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Working Group which in Mauritius comprises of a national coordination unit and representatives from the public and private sectors, University of Mauritius and NGOs. Working group focus areas over the three year project are summarized in below. The Working Group falls within the remit of the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Environment, but the long term future of the working group (after EU funding terminated in 1999) has not been secured. Similar activities were undertaken in the other member countries of the Indian Ocean Commission.

IOC Activities in Mauritius

- Sustainable management of coral reefs: monitoring and national and regional networks.
- Marine eco-toxicology: monitoring and surveys.
- Erosion and sand mining: national reports.
- Coastal pollution: report of land sources.
- Environmental economics: case studies on Pointe aux Sables and the impact of coral bleaching.
- Awareness raising activities and environmental education.

Activities completed under the marine sector as part of Scientific and Technical Co-operation Programme with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Since early 80's, Mauritius has also benefited technical assistance from the Government of Japan for development of fisheries sector in Mauritius. The three-phase cooperation started in 1982.

The first phase consisted of the construction of the Albion Fisheries Research Centre in 1982. In the second phase in 1987, the culture experimental facilities were expanded. The extension of the management & laboratory facilities of the centre was undertaken during the third phase of the cooperation in 1992.

Besides the investment in Albion Fisheries Research Centre, Overseas Fisheries Co-operation Foundation (OFCF) has expanded facilities at Trou Fanfaron Fishing Port during a two phased programme in 1985 and 1991. The OFCF has also implemented an outer-lagoon fisheries development project from 1991 to 1994, providing one research coastal vessel, two fishing boats and three experts.

With the expanded infrastructural facilities at Albion, the Ministry of Fisheries has initiated a project in collaboration with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), aiming to upgrade research and monitoring capability of Mauritian Scientists for sustainable utilization of marine resources and conservation of marine environment and the biodiversity.

The project consist of three major component namely, Coastal Ecosystem Research, Coastal Environment Research, and Resource Propagation (Aquaculture).

The benefits derived from the Project include:

- Technology transfer from Japanese experts;
- Mauritian counterpart receiving various training courses in Japan, and
- Provision of research and laboratory equipment.

The project has enabled the collection and establishment baseline data for the conservation of aquatic biodiversity especially through the Coastal Ecosystem Research component.

Followings are the examples of studies carried out by the component;

(a) Establishment of a database on the distribution of marine organisms in Mauritius.

- * The establishment of a database on marine organisms was carried out and is ongoing. As at 23rd June 2000, data on 330 fishes, 50 corals, 10 holothurians, 37 sponges and 6 sea grass species have already been collected from coastal waters around Mauritius.
- * A report on "Holothurians distribution in the lagoon at La Preneuse and Baie du Cap, Mauritius" was prepared and is in print at the Marine Ecology Research Institute, Japan.
- * Data on the current status of corals and fishes in the Albion lagoon were incorporated in the paper entitled "Status of the marine environment of the Albion lagoon" (presented at Annual Meeting of Agricultural Scientist (AMAS) in 1999.
- * "Status of the marine environment of the Flic en Flac lagoon" presented at AMAS 2001.

(b) Conducting long-term monitoring and assessing the coastal ecosystem (EIA)

- * Report on coral bleaching is under preparation.
- * An article on coral spawning entitled "Observation on coral spawning in the lagoon of Mauritius" was published in the "Western Indian Ocean Waters (WINDOW) newsletter (UNESCO 1999).
- * A scientific paper on " Present status of sea grass at Albion and Pointe aux Cannoniers" was published in the Proceedings of the Marine Ecology Research Institute, Japan (April 2000).

© Collection of ecological data for effective utilization of Barachois

- * An status report for 6 Barachois was completed.
- * The report entitled "Stomach content analyses of carnivorous fishes from various Barachois in Mauritius" was completed.

(d) Up-grading the self-study ability of the officers on coastal ecosystem research under the framework of the project.

- * 10 scientific articles and 18 internal reports have been prepared.

(e) Establishing a database on coastal marine organisms (to be used regionally and internationally) in order to understand the present condition of the marine ecosystem.

- * A total of 68 data sets were input and graphically analyzed on the AIMS Reef Monitoring Data

Entry System (ARMDES). A report on two selected sites in the context of the Indian Ocean Commission project has been presented at the International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium (ITMEMS) (1998) and published. The data on the same sites were also reported in the Indian Ocean Commission Project (1999).

* Data on collected species has been input on the database.

(f) Understanding basic biostatistics required for ecological analysis.

* Statistics textbook “Basic Biostatistics for Marine Biologist” was published and distributed to public including University and International institutions.

(g) Public awareness on marine environment.

* 4 posters (2 posters on common coral reef fishes, 1 on commercial fish and 1 on corals) were published and distributed to schools, colleges, University, NGOs, hotels and international institutions.

* Fish Book “A Field Guide to Coastal Fishes in Mauritius” were published and distributed to public including Universities, NGOs, and international institutions.

Collaboration with International Agricultural Research Centers

Improved genetic material from International Agricultural Research Centers have been introduced in Mauritius and they are:-

- Maize germplasm from International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre;
- Bean from International Centre for Tropical Agriculture;
- Cowpea from International Institute for Tropical Agriculture;
- Ground nuts and pigeon pea from International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics;
- Potato from International Potato Centre, and
- Vegetables from Asian Vegetable Research & Development Centre, and
- Technical assistance from the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

1. Each Contracting Party shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures, as appropriate, to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, which provide the genetic resources for such research, and where feasible in such Contracting Parties.
2. Each Contracting Party shall take all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties, especially developing countries, to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties. Such access shall be on mutually agreed terms.
3. The Parties shall consider the need for and modalities of a protocol setting out appropriate procedures, including, in particular, advance informed agreement, in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of any living modified organism resulting from biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
4. Each Contracting Party shall, directly or by requiring any natural or legal person under its jurisdiction providing the organisms referred to in paragraph 3 above, provide any available information about the use and safety regulations required by that Contracting Party in handling such organisms, as well as any available information on the potential adverse impact of the specific organisms concerned to the Contracting Party into which those organisms are to be introduced.

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
There is a strong government will to promote biotechnology in Mauritius.					
Most of the research and development in biotechnology have been predominantly in the agricultural sector and so far include projects in plant tissue culture, diagnostics for plant, animal and human genetic transformation and molecular mapping. The need for a national biotechnology policy as well as capacity building in terms of training, equipment, the setting up of a National Biotechnology Center and legislation to regulate biosafety in the application of biotechnology in Mauritius have been identified. Resources are limiting.					
270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					X
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
If so, are these measures:					
a) Legislation					
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation					
c) Policy and administrative measures (through Agreements and MoU)					X

271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

Decision IV/3. Issues related to biosafety and Decision V/1. Work Plan of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

272. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?	
a) not a signatory	X
b) signed, ratification in progress	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Mauritius could not sign the Cartagena Protocol while it was open for signature. However, it is in the process of depositing the necessary instruments to become a party to the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety. In that context, several measures are being set in place. These include, *inter alia*,

1. preparation of a GMO bill. A first draft is available and it addresses certain measures that ensure responsible development, production, use, importation, exportation and marketing of GMOs;
2. setting up a National Biosafety Committee, and
3. Public awareness of biotechnology and biosafety at the national level.

The development and application of biotechnology in Mauritius may be considered to be at a preliminary stage in the various institutions, but the knowledge and technical capacities are rapidly increasing. Presently, various institutions are devoted to agricultural researches. The University of Mauritius has a Research and Development (R&D) programme in biotechnology comprising tissue culture, disease diagnosis by recombinant DNA technology, marker assisted selections, plant genome mapping and genetic engineering.

Examples of traditional applications of biotechnology in Mauritius include the processing of dairy products such as yogurt, beer brewing and the transformation of sugar cane by-products such as molasses for production of alcohol and animal feed.

Institutions dealing with biotechnology are being encouraged to develop institutional biosafety guidelines. In 1999, a National Biosafety Guideline was prepared with the assistance of UNEP/ GEF and steps are being taken to formulate a biosafety law in the country. With these developments, it is envisaged that Mauritius will have sufficient legal framework to protect its biodiversity and at the same time develop its biotechnology programme.

Article 20 Financial resources

1. Each Contracting Party undertakes to provide, in accordance with its capabilities, financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Convention, in accordance with its national plans, priorities and programmes.
2. The developed country Parties shall provide new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed full incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of this Convention and to benefit from its provisions and which costs are agreed between a developing country Party and the institutional structure referred to in Article 21, in accordance with policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria and an indicative list of incremental costs established by the CoP. Other Parties, including countries undergoing the process of transition to a market economy, may voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties. For the purpose of this article, the CoP, shall at its first meeting establish a list of developed country Parties and other Parties which voluntarily assume the obligations of the developed country Parties. The CoP shall periodically review and if necessary amend the list. Contributions from other countries and sources on a voluntary basis would also be encouraged. The implementation of these commitments shall take into account the need for adequacy, predictability and timely flow of funds and the importance of burden-sharing among contributing Parties included in the list.
3. The developed country Parties may also provide, developing country Parties avail themselves of, financial resources related to the implementation of this Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels.
4. The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively implement their commitments under this Convention will depend on the effective implementation by developed country Parties of their commitments under this Convention related to financial resources and transfer of technology and will also take fully into account the fact that economic and social development and eradication of poverty are the first and overriding priorities of the developing Parties.
5. The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situation of least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology.
6. The Contracting Parties shall also take into consideration the special conditions resulting from the dependence on, distribution and location of, biological diversity within developing country Parties, in particular small island States.
7. Consideration shall also be given to the special situation of developing countries, including those with arid and semi-arid zones, coastal and mountainous areas.

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
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Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

The Government of Mauritius has always considered conservation, protection and management of biodiversity resources among the national priorities. To a significant most of the activities are financially supported by the Government of Mauritius and through various funds created under the different legislations that are basically meant to support remedial and important biodiversity/ environment related activities. Despite the investment made by the Government, funding remains limiting.

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes - incentives only	
c) yes - financial support only	
d) yes - financial support and incentives	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	Not applicable
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes (mainly through Councils, Development Agencies and Trust funds, the UNDP Small Grant Programme and the GEF)	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	
b) yes (Example is EU funding the environment Programme for the Indian Ocean Commission member Countries)	X

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

280. Is your country working to ensure that all funding institutions (including bilateral assistance agencies) are striving to make their activities more supportive of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
281. Is your country cooperating in any efforts to develop standardized information on financial support for the objectives of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please attach information)	

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

As indicated above, most of the funding in the sector biodiversity is provided by the Government of Mauritius. These are mainly revenues derived from the taxations systems prevailing in Mauritius. The Government has also created funds such as the National Parks and Conservation Fund and the National Environment Fund established under the Wildlife and National Parks Act (1994) and the Environment Protection Act (1991) respectively. These are being fully to support biodiversity and environment related projects/ programme/ activities implemented by NGOs, private and public sectors. The contributions to these funds comprised mainly of levies / fees charged to the private sectors using certain resources.

Details to Question 281.

In Mauritius, there are government organisations that are responsible for the management of sectoral biodiversity resources. These organisations have monitoring system in place as well as information are accessible with regard to financial support for their respective sectors.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

1. There shall be a mechanism for the provision of financial resources to developing country Parties for purposes of this Convention on a grant or concessional basis, the essential elements of which are described in this article. The mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of, and be accountable to, the CoP for purposes of this Convention. The operations of the mechanism shall be carried out by such institutional structure as may be decided upon by the CoP at its first meeting. For purposes of this Convention, the CoP shall determine the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria relating to the access to and utilization of such resources. The contributions shall be such as to take into account the need for predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds referred to in Article 20 in accordance with the amount of resources needed to be decided periodically by the CoP and the importance of burden-sharing among the contributing Parties included in the list referred to in Article 20, paragraph 2. Voluntary contributions may also be made by the developed country Parties and by other countries and sources. The mechanism shall operate within a democratic and transparent system of governance.

2. Pursuant to the objectives of this Convention, the CoP shall at its first meeting determine the policy, strategy and programme priorities, as well as detailed criteria and guidelines for eligibility for access to and utilization of the financial resources including monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis of such utilization. The CoP shall decide on the arrangements to give effect to paragraph 1 above after consultation with the institutional structure entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism.

3. The CoP shall review the effectiveness of the mechanism established under this article, including the criteria and guidelines referred to in paragraph 2 above, not less than two years after the entry into force of this Convention and thereafter on a regular basis. Based on such review, it shall take appropriate action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism if necessary.

4. The Contracting Parties shall consider strengthening existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?

a) High

b) Medium

c) Low

290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good

b) Adequate

c) Limiting

d) Severely limiting

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Mauritius is a developing country Party.

291. Has your country worked to strengthen existing financial institutions to provide financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) no

X

b) yes

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

291. Through the National GEF focal point (Ministry of Economic Development, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs) in Mauritius.

A significant number of projects have been implemented through grants and other form of assistance in the conservation and management of biodiversity resources. As financial resource has always been a limiting factor, major achievements have been made possible through national and international supports.

Article 23 Conference of the Parties

293. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) COP 1 (Nassau)	Two
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	Two
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	One
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	One
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	One

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

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

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

295. Has your country participated in regional meetings focused on discussing implementation of the Convention before any meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes (please specify which)	X

If a developed country Party -	
296. Has your country funded regional and sub-regional meetings to prepare for the COP, and facilitated the participation of developing countries in such meetings?	
a) no	Not Applicable
b) yes (please provide details below)	

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p>Question 294.</p> <p>Mauritius participated in the various Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional meetings especially aimed at discussing various issues that are brought up at the various CoP meetings and also to have a common regional stand. These meetings are also aimed taking stock of the status of the implementation of CoP decisions at the national level.</p> <p>Question 296.</p> <p>Mauritius contribution to the core budget was subsequently paid by 14th February 2001.</p>
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Article 24 Secretariat

299. Has your country provided direct support to the Secretariat in terms of seconded staff, financial contribution for Secretariat activities, etc?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

<p>1. A subsidiary body for the provision of scientific, technical and technological advice is hereby established to provide the CoP and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of this Convention. This body shall be open to participation by all Parties and shall be multidisciplinary. It shall comprise governmental representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise. It shall report regularly to the CoP, and on all aspects of its work.</p> <p>2. Under the authority of and in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Conference of the Parties, and upon its request, this body shall:</p> <p>(a) Provide scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity;</p> <p>(b) Prepare scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Convention;</p> <p>© Identify innovative, efficient and state-of –the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies;</p> <p>(d) Provide advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and</p> <p>(e) Respond to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body.</p> <p>3. The functions, terms of reference, organization and operation of this body may be further elaborated by the Conference of the Parties.</p>
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300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	One
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	One
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	One
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	One
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	One
f) SBSTTA VI (Montreal)	One
g) SBSTTA VII (Montreal)	Nil

Article 26 Reports

Each Contracting Party shall, at intervals to be determined by the CoP, present to the CoP, reports on measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this convention and effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.

301. What is the status of your first national report?	
a) Not submitted	
b) Summary report submitted	
c) Interim/draft report submitted	
d) Final report submitted	X
If b), c) or d), was your report submitted:	
by the original deadline of 1.1.98 (Decision III/9)?	
by the extended deadline of 31.12.98 (Decision IV/14)?	
Later (please specify date)	In January 2001

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
303. Has your country taken steps to ensure that its first and/or second national report(s) is/are available for use by relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, was this by:	
a) informal distribution?	
b) publishing the report?	Awaiting publication
c) making the report available on request?	
d) posting the report on the Internet?	

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

Further comment to question 306

One example that demonstrates the promotion of ecosystem approach in implementing projects/ pilot project in Mauritius consists of the establishment of nine Conservation Management Areas (CMAs) with a total area 44 ha within representative vegetation communities to conserve genetic resources and their intensive management. These CMAs are fenced and a low stonewall built to keep the deer (*Cervus timorensis*) and the pigs (*Sus scrofa*) out. Weedings, such as manual uprooting are undertaken four times a year. The sporadic weeding of the CMAs, before the creation of the National Parks and Conservation Service, did slow down the degradation of the native forests by the invasive weeds.

The control of the alien invasive plant species in these CMAs has proved to be very promising. Many endangered plants have been found, the endemics are regenerating naturally and they are providing better habitat to the endemic birds. Only two known specimens of *Claoxylon linostachys* were known from Macchabee before the establishment of the plot at Mare Longue where a population of about 20 individuals has been discovered. The CMAs are being used by the endemic Pink pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) and the Echo parakeet (*Psittacula eques* (echo)) for nesting and foraging.

Between June 1996 to June 1999, a three year pilot phase project was implemented in one of the CMAs. The project, namely, "Restoration of highly degraded and threatened native forests in Mauritius", was funded to the tune of US \$ 200,000 by UNDP/GEF. Following an international consultative workshop (approximately 25 participants from 7 countries) of top ecologists and weed control experts in September 1997, organised by the National Parks and Conservation Service, the use of herbicides (on experimental basis) to control exotic plants namely Chinese guava (*Psidium cattleianum*) and Privet (*Ligustrum robustum*) was one among various recommendations made. The experiment was undertaken over an experimental area of 0.6 ha. The final result indicated that growth was slowed down. The proceedings of the Consultative workshop has been published.

As sustainable restoration and conservation requires weed and animal pest control methods that are appropriate for much larger areas than the current laborious and expensive techniques used in the CMAs, one of the NGOs has sought financial assistance to test the suitability of "superfence from New Zealand" technology on a pilot scale in Mauritius. Should the outcomes prove be encouraging/positive, then this new technology shall be applied in the establishment of much larger CMAs (of the order of 250 ha).

Inland water ecosystems

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

310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
311. Has your country included inland water biological diversity considerations in its work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no (not sought GEF assistance so far with regard to inland water biodiversity resources)	X
b) yes	
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes	

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

314. Is your country supporting and/or participating in the River Basin Initiative?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
315. Is your country gathering information on the status of inland water biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) assessments ongoing (for some species)	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	X
c) yes - through the CHM	

317. Has your country developed national and/or sectoral plans for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water ecosystems?	
a) no	
b) yes - national plans only	
c) yes - national plans and major sectors	
d) yes - national plans and all sectors	X
318. Has your country implemented capacity-building measures for developing and implementing these plans?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

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

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

Supply and management of fresh water resource is one among the most important national priorities in Mauritius. Numerous studies and works have been commissioned regarding the management and sustainable use of both surface and underground water resources. However, fresh water aquatic biodiversity have only been scantily studied. It is feared that the native aquatic species in the natural water courses may be facing the threat of extinction as their environment are being intensively pressurised. On the other hand, a number of fresh water aquatic species have been introduced in Mauritius and the commercial farming of only few of them have proved to be viable.

The existence and functions of wetlands in Mauritius have till recently been overlooked. There are some 43 wetlands around Mauritius and a significant number of them have been reclaimed for construction of hotel and housing development. Backfilling of wetlands has already done harm in certain places and is now considered as a priority problem that needs to be tackled as stated in the National Environmental Strategy. Though various policy guidelines exist under the National Physical Development Plan, a substantial proportion of wetland (more than 50 %) are already lost. The main reason attributed is absence of proper institutional & legal frameworks, as well as private land ownership giving rise to limited control by the competent Authorities.

The National Parks and Conservation Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources in collaboration and support of the Ramsar Bureau organised a two days workshop on 'Wetlands Conservation and Management in April 2001 to sensitise and discuss the required strategies towards wetlands conservation and management.

The wetland at Rivulet Terre Rouge estuary (now known as the Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary) has been proclaimed as Nature Reserve for migratory bird under the Wildlife and National Parks Act (1993). This site has been included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.

Marine and coastal biological diversity

**Decision II/10 and Decision IV/5. Conservation and sustainable use of
marine and coastal biological diversity**

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

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

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

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

Further comment to question 322.

One practical example of integrated marine and coastal area management consists of an integrated coastal zone management pilot project under the "Programme Regionale Environnement" financed by the European Union and implemented by the western Indian Ocean countries. The project was coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission. Similar pilot phase project was undertaken in all the Indian Ocean Commission member states.

At the national level, in addition to a "Ten year Development plan for the Fisheries Sector" prepared by the Ministry of Fisheries in collaboration with FAO and UNDP, in 1997, an Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Unit has been set up within the Department of Environment of the Ministry of Environment. The ICZM Unit coordinates works and activities that are being implemented by various stakeholders regarding coastal zone in Mauritius.

As part of ongoing monitoring programmes, coral ecosystem is being monitored at 8 selected sites around Mauritius since the early nineties and the programme is still ongoing. Observations on coral spawning, growth and recruitment of coral larvae are being carried every year between October and December. Identification of coral reef fishes to constitute a database is in progress.

Coral bleaching was observed in 1998, and a study was initiated. The percentage of corals totally bleached was relatively low. Recent observation show that the bleached coral colonies have recovered.

Seawater quality (physico-chemical and bacteriological parameters) is also being monitored on a quarterly basis in order to detect any temporal and spatial variations.

Agricultural biological diversity

Decision III/11 and Decision IV/6. Conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity

329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level?	
a) no	
b) early stages of review and assessment	
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	
d) assessment completed	X
330. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	
b) in progress	
c) yes	X
331. Is your country using any methods and indicators to monitor the impacts of agricultural development projects, including the intensification and extensification of production systems, on biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
332. Is your country taking steps to share experiences addressing the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - case-studies	
c) yes - other mechanisms (through international fora)	X
333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	X
b) yes - pollinators	
c) yes - soil biota	
d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems	
334. Is your country establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	

335. Does your country have national strategies, programmes and plans which ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
337. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
338. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	X
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) limited additional funds	
c) significant additional funds	
If a developed country Party -	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	N/ Applicable
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	X
347. Is your country a Contracting Party to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade?	
a) not a signatory	X
b) signed - ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	

348. Is your country supporting the application of the Executive Secretary for observer status in the Committee on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	
b) no	X
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	
b) yes - under consideration	X
c) yes - measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

355. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some measures identified	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive review completed	
356. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - regulation needed	X
c) yes - regulation not needed (please give more details)	
357. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, <i>inter alia</i> , the specific nature of variety-specific and trait-specific genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no (under development)	X
b) yes - developed but not yet applied	
c) yes - developed and applied	
358. Has information about these regulations been made available to other Contracting Parties?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

331. Through participations in regional and international meetings.

356. A first draft of a Biosafety Bill has been prepared and consultation is underway between the State Law Office and competent stakeholders in view of its finalisation.

In 1999, the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute prepared the "National Biosafety Guidelines for the Safe Development and Introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms in Mauritius" report with the financial assistance from UNEP/GEF. The guidelines describe procedures that are necessary for the safe application of genetic modification techniques in Mauritius and recommend practices and precautionary approaches to ensure the safe use and development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the island.

Forest biological diversity

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

359. Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes (as a one man delegation)	X
c) not relevant	
360. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes	
361. Has your country integrated forest biological diversity considerations in its participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
For developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition -	
363. When requesting assistance through the GEF, Is your country proposing projects which promote the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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

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

366. Will your country contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
367. Has your country provided relevant information on the implementation of this work programme?	
a) no	
b) yes - submission of case-studies	
c) yes - thematic national report submitted- paper sent to UNIFF	X
d) yes - other means (First National Report)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes - some stakeholders	X
c) yes - all stakeholders	
370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	X
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on valuation of forest goods and services?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) measures taken	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

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

Not Applicable to Mauritius.

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

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

Some most important specific activities that Mauritius has carried out as a DIRECT RESULT of becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention.

1. Preparation and the coming into force of the Wildlife and National Parks Act (1993), the National Parks and Reserve Regulations of 1996 and the Wildlife Regulations of 1998;
2. Creation of the National Parks and Conservation Service within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources as well as the setting up of advisory bodies;
3. Proclamation of the Black River Georges National Park (June 1994);
4. Creation of Conservation Management Areas;
5. Ongoing management of Offshore Islets and preparation of management plans;
6. Proclamation of two marine parks;
7. Establishment of the Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary as the first wetland reserve in Mauritius and its inclusion in the list of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention;
8. Continue ongoing conservation programmes, sensitisation/ awareness programmes, research and capacity building activities in the various biodiversity sectors;
9. Preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan of the Republic of Mauritius;
10. The National Environment Strategies for Republic of Mauritius for the coming decade (1999) and the Second Environmental Investment Programme.

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

Mauritius has been involved to a limited extent with other Contracting Parties regarding joint initiatives under the Convention of Biological Diversity. However, certain components of biodiversity have been implemented in the regional context and these are in line CBD thematic work programmes and also reflect national priorities. Some of the projects are:

- “Programme Regionale Environnement” funded by the European Union, coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and implemented by the member States of IOC. This programme included projects under the terrestrial and marine biodiversity sectors; education and sensitisation, medicinal and aromatic plants, support to taxonomy inventory project amongst others;
- Regional oil spill contingency planning project funded by GEF/WB, coordinated by the Indian Ocean Commission and implemented by the western Indian Ocean Countries;
- The South African Development Community (SADC) Forestry Sector Programme which aimed at improving the forestry sector through capacity building and the setting up of a SADC Tree Seed Centre Network;
- The SADC project for the management of farm animal genetic resources in the SADC member states, and
- Numerous agreements for technical and scientific cooperation under all the biodiversity sectors.

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

Prior to starting the process for the preparation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan for Mauritius, biodiversity conservation and management was already among the priorities that were identified in the context of the first National Environment Action Plan (1989/90). Terrestrial and Marine conservation projects were devised and implemented as part of the first Environment Investment Programme. Some of these are on long term basis and they are still ongoing.

In view of the rapidly changing socio economic context and in order to foster continual sustainable management efforts and practices, the government commissioned a “National Environment Strategies (NES) for the coming decade” in 1999.

The final NES reports comprised of

1. the second National Environment Action Plan;
2. the second Environment Investment Programme, and
3. Review of the institutional and legislative frameworks for environment management in Mauritius.

Both national and global issues have been addressed in the reports.

Information on any difficulties encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions

1. As the CBD decisions are in general translated into broader local policy approaches, therefore CBD is an effective part of Government decisions.
2. Also due to the broad nature of the decisions, it seems inappropriate to attribute certain measures to a specific question.
3. Some of the questions addressed two or more aspects and for which the answers were not affirmative. Very often only one was achieved, thus making the replies only partially correct. (questions 320, 322,...)
4. Another problem arose with gaps in the choice of answers. Examples are questions 33, 34, 41, 42. In such cases, the nearest answer was chosen.
5. A number of question in the report was very lengthy (questions 16, 57, 58,104, 160, 231, 239, 270, 305 and 369). Many of these have more than one issues contained in the questions hence making a concise answer not that too easy.
6. Certain terms need to be defined such as “limited”, “adequate” and more appropriate terms to be used so to avoid subjective and restrictive responses.
7. The structure of the second national report require a detailed knowledge of CBD Articles, all the decisions of the Conference of Parties and recommendations of the SBSTTA to respond correctly to the questions. This together with an inadequate vulgarisation of the Convention on Biological Diversity make it difficult to engage all the stakeholders under one roof to discuss the report. Therefore a draft report was prepared and stakeholders including NGOs were consulted individually. Their comments have been incorporated in this final Second National Report.

Information on national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP).

Date of completion:	<i>Presently the NBSAP report has reached a draft final stage and the final editing by UNEP is awaited.</i>		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?			
On what date?			
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:			
Name and address of publisher:			
ISBN:			
Price (if applicable):			
Other information on ordering:			
If the NBSAP has not been published			
Please give full details of how copies can be obtained:			
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website			
Please give full URL:			
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF			
Please indicate which agency:			
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes		No	

Details of other completed a Biodiversity Country Study/report or action plan relevant to the objectives of this Convention

The First National Report (FNR) was prepared as part of the GEF /UNEP funded project referenced GF/1200-96-58 in fulfillment to the obligations contained in Decision II/7. The FNR is part of the country planning process pertaining to the biological diversity of Mauritius.

The FNR was submitted to the secretariat of CBD in January 2001.

Detail of any national body that has or will review the implementation of the Convention in your country

No national body has been assigned the responsibility to audit the implementation of any specific convention in Mauritius. However, the Government Audit Office does carry annual auditing of all public organisations including those dealing with biodiversity resources. Such audit exercises normally concern the management of the various sectors and their respective projects.