

CBD SECOND NATIONAL REPORT - NEPAL

Executive Summary

Nepal is a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This second national report has been prepared in accordance to the article 26 of the Convention and the decision V/19 of the Conference of the Parties.

Nepal is committed to implement the CBD. National Coordination Committee for Biodiversity Conservation (NCCBC) has been formed under the chairmanship of Honourable vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission with 22 other members. Under this NCCBC following committees related to the biodiversity conservation do exist.

- National Biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC) under the chairmanship of the secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation.
- National Agro-biodiversity Steering Committee (NABSC) under the chairmanship of the secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. This committee deals with cultivated/domesticated crop related biodiversity.
- Biodiversity Registration Coordination Committee (BRCC) under the coordination of the Honourable member (Agriculture) of the National Planning Commission.

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has designated Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation as the focal point for the CBD. To fulfill Nepal's obligation to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation has been endeavouring through development of policies, formulation of acts and regulations and their revisions, and programs. In this connection, National Biodiversity Strategy and a bill on 'Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing' have been prepared and put in the process for the approval of the government. In addition to these, drafts Bills on Implementation of the CITES, and Plant Resources Conservation, which are also related to conservation of biodiversity, have been finalized and forwarded to the government for approval.

Acts and Rules formulated from 1997 onwards to suit to achieving the objectives of the CBD are

- Government Management on Conservation Area Rules, 2000.
- Buffer Zone Management Guidelines, 1999.
- Local Self Governance Act, 1998.
- Environment Protection Act, 1997.
- Environment protection Rules, 1997.

In order to facilitate the *ex-situ* conservation of the wildlife a bill on the Fifth Amendment to the National Park and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 has been prepared and forwarded for the approval of the cabinet with provision for farming of common wildlife species.

The protected areas covers 15 percent of the total land area of the nation at the time of first national report submission and now it is over 18 percent. Initiations taken for development of transboundary Protected Area System and acceptance of Landscape Approach through development and establishment of supportive corridor and connectivity in possible areas with both the neighbour countries China and India are the new efforts towards the conservation of the biodiversity. Several consultation meetings and cross visits between Nepal and India have been taken place and the outcome of these activities are positive in realizing the need of development of transboundary Protected Area System and acceptance of Landscape Approach through development and establishment of supportive corridor and connectivity in possible areas. Negotiation is in place for creating a tri-national peace park with Tibet Autonomous Region of China

and Sikkim in India to the east of the Kanchhanjunga Conservation Area in Nepal. The Kanchanjunga Conservation Area adjoins the Kanchendzoga National Park in Sikkim and extension of Qomolungma Nature Reserve in the Tibet Autonomous Region is underway to include the area bordering the Kanchanjunga Conservation Area.

A CITES unit has been established within the Department of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation for the effective implementation of CITES.

In this year 2002, Celebration of the International Year of Mountains in Nepal has taken as an opportunity in taking measures for the conservation of biodiversity in the country and publishing the success stories of the conservation activities in the country. On the eve of the IYM one more Botanical garden has been established in Nepal, and this garden is taken as a step ahead in conserving the high altitude plants above 1900m.

Launching of Biodiversity Registration Programme at Village Development Committee level in the beginning of this year 2002 is the other major step taken in implementing the Convention

Nepal has successfully launched participatory forest management in the hills and buffer zones adjacent to the protected areas as well as natural resources in the conservation areas empowering the local people in resource management and revenue sharing. This has significantly contributed to recovering greenery in the hills and mountains thereby supported to the conservation of wildlife and germplasm as well as resolve the park - people conflicts.

The success of participatory natural resource management in Nepal is well known in the world. As a result of the active participation of the local communities in decision making, plantation and protection of the plantation as well as the degraded forests' greenery in the degraded areas in the mountains and hills have been recovered either through the plantation and the natural regeneration. So far over 1,195,000 households have been managing over 845,000 ha of community forests in Nepal. Similarly natural resources in declared buffer zone of the six National Parks - Makalu Barun National Park, Sagarmatha National Park, Langtang National Park, Royal Chitwan National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Royal Bardia National Park.

Current initiatives and actions taken in the country indicate hope for

- conserving biodiversity,
- ensuring sustainable use, and
- sharing of benefits

as stipulated in the objectives of the Convention.

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

Contracting Party	Nepal
National Focal Point	
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Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	

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

The National Biodiversity Unit/Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation in collaboration with IUCN Nepal coordinated preparation of the 2nd National Report to the CBD. A 15-member committee was formed by the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation to look after preparation of the 2nd National Report.

A rigorous consultative process was adopted after an opinion survey with relevant national experts. The members in the Task Force were from:

- The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC)
- Department of Forest (DOF)
- Department of Forest Survey and Research (DFSR)
- Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
- Department of Plant Resources (DPR)
- Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC)
- Technical Association of Foresters (TAF)
- Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists (NEFEJ)
- Green Energy Mission, Nepal
- Tharu Society, Nepal
- IUCN - The World Conservation Union, Nepal
- Himalayan Voice, Kathmandu
- A Civil Society Organization

The format of the National Report was first sent to the above agencies including the Ministry of Local Development, the Ministry of Population and Environment, World Wildlife Fund for Nature, and Resources Himalaya, to seek their comments on relevant portions of the national CBD status. A draft report was then prepared through this interactive process. Finally, a consultative meeting was organized to finalise the draft report.

Some of the other documents reviewed include:

- Draft report of Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (2002).
- Institutionalising Biodiversity Registration: Report of the National Workshop on Biodiversity Registration in Nepal (2000).
- Ninth Five Year Plan (1997).
- First National Report to CBD (1997).
- Nepal Agriculture Perspective Plan (1995).
- Eighth Five Year Plan (1992).

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

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Agricultural biological diversity

5. What is the relative priority for implementation of this work programme in your country?	
a) High	
b) Medium	X
c) Low	
d) Not relevant	

6. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?	
a) Good	
b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Nepal signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 12 June 1992. The Convention was ratified by Parliament on 15 September 1993 and the ratification was deposited before the General Secretary of United Nations on 23 November 1993. Nepal became party to the Convention from 21 February 1994. The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) formed a National Biodiversity Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary of the MFSC. MFSC has created an Environment Division as a focal point for CBD. Presently, the Chief of the Environment Division is coordinating with concerned stakeholders to finalize a Nepal Biodiversity Strategy for the Kingdom of Nepal.

Forest biological diversity has remained a priority programme in Nepal. Nepal has shown her commitment to the CBD by designating more than 18 percent of its landmass as protected areas and making all efforts for conservation of biodiversity. Some innovative participatory conservation measures have been evolved since the 1980's whereby the involvement of communities has been secured in buffer zone management for biodiversity conservation through legal and institutional reform. However, efficient protected area system, planning and conservation remain severely constrained due to the lack of resources.

Agricultural biodiversity, though most important in a subsistence farming based economy, has yet to be accorded high priority. A number of agrobiodiversity related issues remain inadequately addressed due to the overriding priority accorded to production and productivity to combat poverty in the country. This has led to the lack of adequate resources for the sector. Basically, agricultural biodiversity relating to plants, a variety of agro-products, and livestock gene conservation, have not been prioritised, and the focus remains on high yielding improved varieties to increase productivity. Although the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation is the leading ministry for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, and is concerned with forest resources only, it has also substantially prioritised agrobiodiversity in recent times.

This format does not incorporate mountain biodiversity (and mountains make up the greater part of Nepal) that has great significance in Nepal's unique floral, faunal, cultural and social diversity.

Nepal as a landlocked country has no direct concerns with marine and coastal biodiversity. However, forest water ecosystems have so far have remained disregarded despite their significantly rich biodiversity hotspots and resources that make critical contributions to the livelihood and life support systems of Nepalese people.

Article 5 Cooperation

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					
<p>Nepal is a developing country. It has allocated substantial resources for the conservation of biodiversity. However, due to the subsistence nature of its agro base economy, most of the poor people depend heavily on utilisation of biodiversity. The first priority of the government is poverty alleviation.</p> <p>Nepal has done substantial work on transboundary cooperation. The government and non-government sectors have also set aside resources to achieve this.</p> <p>The concept of biodiversity protection is being promoted but generating resources through sustainable use is being limited in view of the need to preserve biodiversity for future generations.</p>					

13. Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
b) international programmes (please give details below)	X
c) international agreements (please give details below)	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, catchment, river basins and migratory species through bilateral and multilateral agreements?	
a) No	
b) Yes - limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) Yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
d) Not applicable	

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

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

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC) is the focal point for CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention, and Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. The Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE) is the focal point for UNFCCC and the Convention on Combating Desertification.

MFSC co-ordinates with UNDP, ICIMOD, KMTNC, WWF and IUCN on issues of conservation of nature, natural resources and wild life. In order to oversee intersectional coordination of biodiversity conservation measures, a Biodiversity Steering Committee, chaired by the Secretary of MFSC, is functional in the MFSC. A Nepal Biodiversity Strategy has been finalised and awaits approval by the government. A specific mechanism has to be developed and implemented to generate financial resources at the local level through sustainable use of biodiversity. To this end a Nepal Biodiversity Trust Fund has been conceptualised (the necessary mechanisms for its functioning remain under discussion) to secure sustainable funding mechanism for biodiversity conservation initiatives in the country.

Nepal participates in transboundary meetings with both its neighbours—China and India. Cooperation has been extended on the species protection regime. Agreements have been signed with these countries for conservation of biological diversity. Nepal also hosted South Asia Regional workshops for Protected Areas to improve the implementation of biodiversity conservation in the region.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

18. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
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	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
<p>There exists severe monetary constraint in general in almost all programs to effectively conserve biodiversity. Among others, the major constraints include lack of trained staff, research infrastructure, logistic support and incentives.</p> <p>Increased species protection regime has also increased dependency over the donors and hence need to utilise species of good population to generate resources at national level.</p> <p>Resources is the limiting factor to work on the issue of biosafety, farmers' right and the preparation of integrated action plan. However, the existing Nepalese laws have balanced mechanism for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>							
20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?							
a) none							
b) early stages of development							
c) advanced stages of development						X	
d) completed ₁							
e) completed and adopted ₂							
f) reports on implementation available							
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?							
a) none							
b) early stages of development							
c) advanced stages of development						X	
d) completed ₂							
e) completed and adopted ₂							
f) reports on implementation available							
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?							
a) some articles only							
b) most articles						X	
c) all articles							

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

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

Decision II/7 and Decision III/9 Consideration of Articles 6 and 8

24. Is action being taken to exchange information and share experience on the national action planning process with other Contracting Parties?	
a) little or no action	
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	X
c) regional meetings	
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans coordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	X
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) coordinated in some areas/themes	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
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)?	UNDP

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

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal 1990 states that the State shall give priority attention to the conservation of environment and also make special arrangements for the conservation of rare animal species, the forests and the vegetation of the country [Article 26(4)].

The concerns of conservation and sustainable use of biological resources have been articulated significantly in national plans and policies from the 8th five-year plan period. Since the early 1990's, the National Conservation Strategy, Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan, Master Plan for Forestry Sectors (MPFS), and Agricultural Perspective Plans have been formulated, also focusing on a public-private partnership approach to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources for sustainable development.

The forest sector has prepared Operational Forest Management Plans (OFMP) and implemented them in 18 districts, mainly in the Terai. More than 845,193 ha of forests have been handed over to about 10,966 Forest Users' Groups (FUGs) under community forestry, mainly in the hills. The Protected Area system covers a total of 18.11 percent (26,665 sq km) area and 67.89 percent of ecosystems of the country. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) programme has focused on extension strategy and documentation of NTFPs. In the area of agrobiodiversity, activities include the evaluation of performance of local landraces, maintenance of traditional germplasm accessions, and livestock improvement. The Wetland programme has included Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve in the Ramsar list and three other wetland sites—Ghodaghodi Lake, Bish Hazari Lake, and Jagdishpur Reservoir—have been nominated for listing as Ramsar sites. Rangelands cover fodder and pasture development, and establishment of research centres. The establishment of the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a significant achievement towards mountain biodiversity management. Experience has shown that preference for multiple use of forest resources and participation of local communities in operations has proved useful to make any programme a success.

The main gaps include the lack of baseline information and integrated management in many programmes. Adequate representation of mid hills ecosystems and transboundary PAs are lacking.

Most policies and legislation formulated since early 1960's to address issues concerning biodiversity conservation have been revisited, reviewed and revised to ensure popular participation, awareness, capacity development at all levels and institutional strengthening. New policies are also being worked out for areas such as wetlands. Some policy and legislation related to biodiversity conservation in Nepal are:

- A. The Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990.
- B. Acts
 - Local self-Governance Act, 1998.
 - Environment Protection Act, 1997.
 - Forest Act, 1993.
 - Water Resources Act, 1992.

- Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Act, 1982.
- National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1973.
- Aquatic Life Conservation Act, 1961.

C. Rules

- Government Management on Conservation Areas Rules, 2000.
- Environment Protection Rules, 1997.
- Conservation Areas Management Rules, 1996.
- Buffer Zone Management Rules, 1996.
- Forest Rules, 1995.
- Himali National Parks Rules, 1980.
- Wildlife Reserve Rules, 1977.
- Royal Chitwan National Parks Rules, 1974.
- National Parks & Wildlife Protection Rules, 1974.

D. Guidelines

- Buffer Zone Management Guideline, 1999.
- EIA Guidelines for Industrial Sector, 1995.
- EIA Guidelines for Forestry Sector, 1995.
- National Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines, 1993.

E. Policy and Plan

- The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).
- Nepal Agriculture Perspective Plan, 1995.
- The Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan: Integrating Environment and Development, 1993.
- The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997).

F. Strategy

- Nepal Biodiversity Strategy, 2002 (draft).
- National Conservation Strategy, 1988.

Review and evaluation of the Acts are urgently required to adequately address obligations arising from the Articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other international agreements and conventions to which Nepal is party. The intellectual and cultural property rights of indigenous peoples need to be secured through legislation.

Draft Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS):

The main goal of the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) is to provide an operational planning framework for the conservation of biological diversity, maintenance of ecological processes and systems and ensure equitable sharing of benefits. The objectives aimed at integrating conservation and sustainable use of components of biodiversity as a part of development by analysing the current state of knowledge about biodiversity, a thorough review of biodiversity related documents, strategies, development plans, programmes, institutional arrangements, and policies including those mentioned in the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector, Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plans I and II; identifying important gaps of policy and plans, constraints, and current practices of conservation, and assessing further needs; identifying current pressures and threats to biodiversity and future trends; assessing the present and future value of biodiversity to humanity in the country; identifying the conservation priorities and time frame for research, management and investments; assessing the cost scale of conserving biodiversity in the

country; and developing long term strategies, project concepts of action plans for 13 years (2000-2012 AD), implementation methods, and a monitoring and evaluation system for biodiversity conservation.

The NBS was a participatory exercise designed to develop a comprehensive strategy to conserve and use biodiversity in a sustainable manner. In order to identify biodiversity conservation issues throughout the country, five regional workshops were held with representatives from all the 75 districts in Nepal. Altogether, 254 government officials, 43 technical experts, 9 international experts, 104 NGOs, 25 INGOs, and 75 District Development Committees were consulted during the course of developing the NBS. Three field surveys were conducted to monitor biodiversity, and 43 technical papers, a GIS manual, and a GIS publication on protected areas, have been published. The technical information was used to develop the NBS, to strengthen the technical and scientific basis for many of the recommended actions.

Biodiversity issues are inter-sectoral, addressing social, economic, ecological, cultural, and political issues. The NBS discusses cross-sectoral issues, which integrate different sectors to build biodiversity conservation strategies and action plans. The document also attempts to develop sectoral plans by assessing different components of biodiversity.

There is a need to develop a comprehensive mechanism to prepare a national report on related conventions including UNFCCC and UNCCD. Such a mechanism would enable LDCs to establish synergies between conventions and develop and implement programmes accordingly. A sectoral outlook on Convention matters should also be minimised. As many Conventions have obliged the Parties to prepare and implement action programmes, COPs may take decisions on making a comprehensive and implementable programme or action plan so that national and international resources could be directed towards biodiversity and land resource management.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

30. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
31. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Monitoring management system is not in place due to the lack of adequate resources.					

32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	X
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	
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	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	X
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	
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	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	X
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	
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	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	
42. Is your country using rapid assessment and remote sensing techniques?	
a) no	
b) assessing opportunities	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
d) yes, to a major extent	
e) reports on implementation available	

43. Has your country adopted a "step-by-step" approach to implementing Article 7 with initial emphasis on identification of biodiversity components (7a) and activities having adverse effects on them (7c)?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes	X
44. Is your country co-operating 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	X
b) limited co-operation	
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

Although target monitoring has been instituted as an in-built mechanism, performance monitoring deserves attention; and species management needs thorough fiscal incentives in Protected Area Systems.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation is in the process of developing a management information system to monitor and manage various indicator species in the Protected Areas of Nepal. MFSC is working with its partners to develop a comprehensive monitoring plan.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been institutionalised in Nepal. But a "step by step" approach in adopting EIA has not been followed strictly due to the lack of both human and financial resources.

Monitoring Training: The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation organised a Tiger Survey and Monitoring Training programme for Senior Game Scouts from all the Terai parks/reserves. The objective was to acquaint Rangers with the necessary skills to identify pug-marks of individual tigers, camera trapping, pug-mark casting, tracing of the pug-mark, as well as various aspects regarding tiger conservation. The trainees were also informed about the concept of biological corridors with the potentiality of linking the Trans-border protected areas of Nepal and India. DNPWC has regularly monitored Tiger censuses in the various National Parks.

Protected, Threatened and Endemic Species: HMG/N has imposed restrictions on the export of 12 plant species and one forest product from Nepal. Similarly, 27 mammalian species, 9 bird species, and 3 reptilian species have been accorded legal protection under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973. Similarly there are 10 species of fish that merit legal protection in Nepal and 12 species of butterflies have been recommended for protection.

Altogether, 15 species/taxa of vascular plants, 58 species of mammals, 40 species of birds, 13 species of reptiles, one amphibian species, and 2 species of insects have been included in the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) list (Nepal is a CITES member since 1975). Sixty species of non-endemic plants are regarded as threatened. Altogether, 27 species of mammals are listed in the IUCN threatened species categories, 22 species of birds, 9 species of reptiles, and 2 species of insects have been listed in the IUCN red list. One rodent species is endemic to Nepal, while two mammalian species—the Pigmy Hog (*Sus salvanius*), and Indian Chevrotain (*Moschiola meminna*)—are probably extinct in Nepal.

The number of endemic species is relatively low in Nepal. Altogether 341 plant species and 161 animal species have been reported as being endemic to Nepal.

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	X
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	X
c) yes, covering all known needs	
53. Is your country encouraging bilateral and multilateral training and employment opportunities for taxonomists, particularly those dealing with poorly known organisms?	
a) no	
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	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	X
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) some	X
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	X
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	X
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	
d) yes - significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	
b) some	X
c) many	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

Although taxonomic research is important, there is inadequate understanding and almost no research in Nepal due basically to the lack of funds. Hence, COP should make decisions to consider and explore avenues for funding taxonomic research in LDCs.

However, the Central Department of Botany has been undertaking research on taxonomy of higher plants in the following areas (a brief account):

1. Survey, inventory and identification of plant species from different areas in Nepal
2. Herbarium set up of the specimens
3. Database preparation of plant species of Nepal
4. Documentation of traditional knowledge of different communities of Nepal and preparation of a database of medicinal plants

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

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Nepal has established comprehensive systems of protected areas covering more than 18 percent of its landmass for conservation of biodiversity. Though it is one of the poorest countries in the world, it has allocated substantial amount of financial resources for biodiversity conservation. However, it needs a lot of international support for comprehensive conservation programmes and even to strengthen PA management systems.					

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) national protected area systems plan in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) relatively complete system in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) no, under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	<input type="checkbox"/>
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) programme or policy in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) reports on implementation available	<input type="checkbox"/>
75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?	
a) no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
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	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
<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 (if so, please give details below)	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	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

<p><u>Biodiversity Within Protected Area System</u></p> <p>The Protected Areas (PAs) in Nepal include eight national parks, four wildlife reserves, one hunting reserve and three conservation areas and five buffer zones covering an area of 26,666 sq. km or 18.11 percent of the total area of the country. Out of 118 ecosystems identified in different physiographic zones in Nepal, 80 ecosystems are represented in the protected areas. The biodiversity of Nepal embraces 118 ecosystems, with 75 vegetation and 35 forest types. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation is responsible for the PAs. A buffer zone management system with a benefit sharing mechanism has been operationalised in national parks through legal regime.</p> <p><u>National Parks Established in Nepal</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makalu Barun National Park and Conservation Area (2330 sq. km. with 1500 sq. km National Park and 830 sq. km. Conservation Area) is situated in the Sankhuwasabha and Solukhumbu districts. This is the only protected area in Nepal with a Strict Nature Reserve. • Sagarmatha National Park lies to the northeast of Kathmandu. It covers an area of 1,148 sq. km. of the Himalayan ecological zone. UNESCO listed the park as a World Heritage Site in 1979 for its unique natural, cultural and landscape features. • Langtang National Park (1710 sq. km) is situated in the central Himalayas. It is the nearest Park from Kathmandu. • Shivapuri National Park (144 sq. km) is the currently designated national park in 2002. • Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP) has long been one of the country's natural wonders. The park is situated in south central Nepal, covering 932 sq. km. in the subtropical lowlands of the inner Terai. Recognizing its unique ecosystems of international significance, UNESCO declared RCNP a World Heritage Site in 1984. In
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1996, an area of 750 sq. km surrounding the park, which consists of forests and private lands, was declared a buffer zone.

- Shey Phoksundo National Park (3,555 sq. km.) is situated in the trans-Himalayan region of northwestern Nepal. The park is the largest national park and contains the highest lake, Lake Phoksundo, in Nepal.
- Royal Bardia National Park (968 sq. km). It is situated in the mid-far western Terai, east of the Karnali River.
- Rara National Park (106 sq. km) is located in northwest Nepal about 371km by air distance from Kathmandu. This is the smallest Parks in Nepal, containing the country's biggest lake (10.8 sq. km) at an elevation of 299 m.
- Khaptad National Park (225 sq. km.). It is situated in the mid-mountain region of Far-Western Nepal.

Conservation Area

- Kanchanjunga Conservation Area (KCA) spread over 2035 sq. km in Taplejung district, lies in the northeast corner of Nepal. It is named after Mt. Kanchenjunga (8,586m), the second highest mountain in Nepal and the third highest in the world. The conservation area with unique mountain ecosystems is envisioned as a tri-national peace park with Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China to the north and Sikkim of India, in the east.
- Manaslu Conservation Area (MCA) is spread over 1,663 sq. km. in central north of Nepal. Established in 1998, the conservation area is surrounded by high mountains.
- The Annapurna Conservation (ACA) is spread over 7,629 sq. km. of Kaski, Myagdi, Parbat and Manang districts in northwest Nepal. Established in 1986, the conservation area is surrounded by high mountains and deep valleys. A mosaic of ethnic groups has carved a lifestyle out of its steep terraces and barren plateaus. Annapurna Conservation Area is a major trekking destination in Nepal.

Wildlife Reserves

- Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (175 sq. km) is situated on the floodplains of the Sapta-Koshi River in Eastern Nepal. The reserve is a wetland of international significance. In 1987, it was declared a Ramsar site. The Koshi Barrage is an extremely important resting-place for migratory birds. The last surviving population of wild buffalo or *arna* is found here.
- Parsa Wildlife Reserve (499 sq. km) is situated in the lowland Terai of Nepal adjoining Royal Chitwan National Park in the west.
- Royal Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (305 sq. km) is situated in the southern Terai of Far-Western Nepal. Large grasslands, called *phantas*, are found within the reserve. The reserve is a prime habitat for swamp deer, with an estimated population of 2000 of this species found here.

Hunting Reserve

- Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve (1,325 sq. km) is the only hunting reserve in the country, situated in the Dhaulagiri Himal range in Western Nepal. The reserve's elevation ranges from 2,850m to more than 7,000m. The reserve is characterized by alpine, sub-alpine and high temperate vegetation.

Translocation of Rhino: The DNPWC and KMTNC jointly initiated translocation of 10 rhinoceros from Chitwan to RBNP with financial support from WWF and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The operation (February 27-5 March 2000) was successfully carried out by technicians of the DNPWC and KMTNC. The Translocation Team was supported by 21 elephants and their staff in scouting for and rounding up the selected animals for immobilisation and putting them into specially built crates before sending them to the release area.

Buffer Zone

The establishment of Buffer Zones in and around Parks and Reserves is one of the remarkable initiatives in conservation through park-people conflict resolution. The primary objective of establishing buffer zones in and around protected areas is to minimise biotic pressure on protected areas while motivating local communities to sustainably manage natural resources. Park-people conflict often arises out of the

clash of interests between local people and Park management over the use of forest produce. Crop damage by foraging wild animals and occasional livestock loss further aggravate the situation.

The conciliatory, partnership approach adopted by the Department is aimed at winning the support of local communities in participatory management of forest resources and to fulfil their need for forest produce through the User Groups. The Department has already established Buffer Zones around Makalu Barun National Park, Sagarmatha National Park, Langtang National Park, Royal Chitwan National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Royal Bardia National Park.

Biodiversity Outside the Protected Area System

The Forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulation 1995 have contributed to the conservation of biodiversity by strengthening Community Forest User Groups in the management of forests. So far 11,95,194 households, organised under 10,966 community forest users groups (CFUGs), are involved in managing 845,193 hectares of national forest land as community forests.

Wetland Biodiversity

Nepal contains different types of wetlands, including permanent flowing rivers, seasonal streams, lowland oxbow lakes, high altitude glacial lakes, swamps and marshlands, paddy fields, reservoirs and ponds. The Koshi Tappu wetland is internationally significant, and was therefore added to the Ramsar list on 17 December 1987. Ten sites have been suggested for inclusion into the Ramsar list. About 172 plant species from major wetlands have been identified. Of the 844 bird species in Nepal, 193 species are known to be wetland dependent.

The Cabinet has approved a proposal to include three more wetland sites in the Ramsar list. The sites are Ghodaghodi Tal area of Kailali district, Jagadishpur reservoir area of Kapilvastu district and Beesh Hazar Tal of Chitwan. These are very important wetland areas, providing the perfect habitat for various endangered species of birds, reptiles and fauna.

On Farm Agricultural Biodiversity

In-situ conservation of crop plants involves the conservation on-farm of local crop landraces with the active participation of farmers to

- (1) conserve the processes of evolution and adaptation of crops to their environment,
- (2) conserve diversity at all levels—ecosystem, species and genetic diversity within species,
- (3) improve the livelihood of resource-poor farmers,
- (4) maintain or increase control and access of farmers over their genetic resources, and
- (5) integrate farmers into the national plant genetic resources system for conservation.

The following section outlines a summary of the main activities undertaken. The objectives of the project are:

- to support the development of a framework of knowledge on farmer decision-making processes that influence in-situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity,
- to strengthen national institutions for the planning and implementation of conservation programmes for agricultural biodiversity, and

- to broaden the use of agricultural biodiversity and the participation in its conservation by farming communities and other groups.

Districts in three physiographic regions of Nepal, namely Jumla, Kaski and Bara, have been selected to represent high, middle and low altitude agro-ecosystems. These ecosystems are selected on the basis of their agrobiodiversity richness, the status of on-farm conservation by farmers, and also the interest and availability of collaborating institutions.

<u>Ecosite</u>	<u>Physiographic Zone/Altitude</u>	<u>Level of Diversity</u>	<u>Degree of Intervention</u>	<u>Targeted Crops</u>
Jumla	High hills 2200-3000 m	Moderate/high	Low	Rice, Millet, Barley, Buckwheat, Cucumber
Kaski	Mid hill 600-1600 m	Moderate	High/Medium	Rice, Millet, Taro, Sponge gourd, Cucumber
Bara	Terai 100-150 m	Low	Moderate/High	Rice, Millet, Sponge gourd, Cucumber, Pigeon pea

Project Synthesis:

The Nepal project has contributed considerably to the global knowledge base to understand the scientific basis of in situ on-farm conservation. Substantial work has been initiated (and is likely to be accomplished in a few years) in assessment and documentation of genetic diversity, understanding decision making by farmers, community participation, value addition, building local and national capacity and creating awareness among local communities, agricultural professionals, and policy makers, on conservation of agricultural biodiversity on-farm.

The assessment and understanding of farmers' management of diversity (extent and distribution) has been initiated in the three key agro-ecological sites (mountains, hills and Terai lowlands) on rice, sponge gourd, finger millet, barley, buckwheat, pigeon pea, and taro in terms of the number of farmer unit of diversity (FUD) and genetic distinctness using biochemical (isozyme) and molecular (micro-satellite DNA marker polymorphism) techniques.

Local crop diversity is maintained mainly by the processes of seed exchange among the community within and outside social networks.

The project has initiated work on promoting in situ conservation through the participation of farmers in plant breeding, value addition and community awareness methods ranging from personal contact to use of mass media. On-going work on value addition of taro, rice and sponge gourds has demonstrated that farming communities can benefit by linking conservation efforts with marketing. Preliminary policy gaps, and constraints influencing farmers' decision on maintenance of landraces have been identified. Further research is planned to analyse specific policy gaps and identify and assess the country's relevant policy needs and also create awareness among policy makers so as to influence development of relevant agrobiodiversity conservation policies in line with international agreements and national objectives.

The project has also initiated work on in situ data management systems in line with the global project framework using common protocols for in situ data structure and management.

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
No comments.					
88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?					
a) no					
b) only major species of concern					X
c) only new or recent introductions					
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions					
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions					
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?					
a) no					X
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed					
c) most alien species have been assessed					
90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					X
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					

Decision IV/1 Report and recommendations of the third meeting of SBSTTA

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

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

93. Is your country applying the interim guiding principles for prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species in the context of activities aimed at implementing article 8(h) of the Convention, and in the various sectors?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) limited implementation in some sectors	X
d) extensive implementation in some sectors	
e) extensive implementation in most sectors	
94. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary focusing on thematic assessments?	
a) no	X
b) in preparation	
c) yes	
95. Has your country submitted written comments on the interim guiding principles to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
96. Has your country given priority to the development and implementation of alien invasive species strategies and action plans?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
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	X
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	
d) multilateral co-operation	
98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives	X
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	X
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	
102. Is your country providing support to enable the Global Invasive Species Programme to fulfil the tasks outlined in the decision and its annexes?	
a) no	X
b) limited support	
c) substantial support	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

There is a growing need to study issues related to invasive alien species and undertake policy measures to regulate and control them. This area is yet to receive adequate attention due to the paucity of resources.

Many agricultural crops and unknown weeds have been introduced. Some widely known IAS have started invading forests, wetlands and agro ecosystems. Existing knowledge about alien invasive species in Nepal is not comprehensive. The Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) provides a list of alien floral species. Work on Invasive Alien Species has been initiated recently.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?			
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	c) Low
104. 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 type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources			
Both financial as well as human resource constraints remain limiting factors in the area of documenting of traditional knowledge and its preservation and promotion. Some research and inventory work is being undertaken of late.			

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

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) early stages of development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) advanced stages of development	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) legislation or other measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) yes - previous national report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) yes - CHM	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

109. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	
b) some	X
c) all	
111. Is your country facilitating the active participation of representatives of indigenous and local communities in these working groups and meetings?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

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	
b) under review	X
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	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
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	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
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	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
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	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	
c) yes - to a limited extent	X
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	
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	X
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	
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	X
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	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	
c) development in progress	X
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	
b) not appropriate	
c) yes	X
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	
c) partly	X
d) fully	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The concept of community biodiversity registry is evolving in Nepal but clearly there is the lack of resources/funding. A countrywide database of this kind, consisting of peoples' indigenous knowledge of different biological resources and their use, has long been a felt need.

A Draft bill on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (AGRBS) provides for documentation and registration of traditional knowledge associated with biological resources. The Ministry of Law Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MLJPA) is seeking Cabinet approval for tabling the Bill in Parliament.

Currently, the process of biodiversity documentation including biodiversity, indigenous knowledge, skills and technology has been started for the registration at village level.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Existing approaches to ex-situ conservation in Nepal have not been strictly viewed in the spirit of CBD owing basically to the lack of resources.					
127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>native</i> to your country (9a)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					X
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)?					
a) no measures					X
b) some measures in place					
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					
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>native</i> to your country (9b)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					X
c) yes - significant extent					
131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?					
a) no					X
b) yes - limited extent					
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	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <i>ex situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in situ</i> populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for <i>ex situ</i> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <i>ex situ</i> conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

It is estimated that there are more than 7000 species of flowering plants in Nepal, of which nearly 79 percent have been collected, identified and preserved at the National Herbarium and Plant Laboratory, Godawari. Ex-situ conservation in Nepal basically focuses on conventional approaches. Some examples of ex-situ conservation are the National Herbarium, Conservatories, Tissue Culture Technology, Royal Botanical Garden, Central Zoo, the nursery established for High Altitudinal Floral Species in Daman at an altitude of 7000masl, and the Genetic Seed House to Store Agriculture Germplasm, among others. Recently, the translocation of endangered species (like rhinos) from one national park to another has been undertaken. A national assessment of valuable floral and faunal diversity including a population census could primarily form the basis for prioritising ex-situ conservation, which is unfortunately lacking.

The Royal Botanical Garden: It is located in the base of Mount Phulchoki (2715m) at Godawari (1515m) at the southeast corner of Kathmandu valley. The Garden is spread over 82 hectares and is surrounded by evergreen natural forests. The temperature ranges between 20°C and 30°C during summer and -5°C to 20°C during winter. Since its establishment most activities have centered on enriching the garden with indigenous plants so as to integrate its collection with scientific investigation, conservation, education and demonstration. It has provided for,

- Ex-situ and in-situ conservation including rare, endemic as well as indigenous plants.

- Education on conserved plants, classification and use by demonstration.
- Dissemination of information on Nepalese plant resources to create awareness.
- The development of technology for the propagation of plants of commercial value.
- Production and sale of indigenous as well as exotic ornamental plants, seedlings, cut flowers etc.
- Developing a recreation spot for naturalists.

Central Zoo: The Central Zoo is the only zoo in Nepal. It was established in 1932 as a private zoo. His Majesty's Government of Nepal entrusted the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation with the responsibility of managing the zoo in December 1995. KMTNC aims to develop the Central Zoo as a centre for wildlife research and conservation education. The Central Zoo houses more than 900 animals of 123 different species. Among these are 31 mammal, 63 bird, 9 reptile and 20 fish species. The Central Zoo houses 14 of the 38 endangered animal species of Nepal.

Tistung Botanical Garden at Daman: This garden was recently established on 1 January 2002 at Daman of Makawanpur district on the eve of the International Year of Mountains. It is situated at a height of 1900masl. The prime objective of this garden is to conserve germplasm of plants growing in the surrounding areas and in similar climatic conditions. The native, naturalised, and exotic plants conserved in the garden include 62 species of trees and shrubs, 26 species of economic and medicinal plants, and 24 species of ornamental plants.

Ex-situ Conservation of Agrobiodiversity

Genetic seed house (prefabricated structure with 20 sq. m. space) is currently being used to store germplasm collected from different districts of Nepal. Altogether 10,654 accessions of 90 crop species have been preserved at 5 degree centigrade with 45% relative humidity. Horticulture plants have been conserved at Horticultural Farms and Stations.

Effective utilization of germplasm requires proper characterization and evaluation. Landraces of rice (98 accessions), soybean (216 accessions), lentil (146 accessions), broad bean (35 accessions), colocasia (48 accessions), barley (472 accessions), buckwheat (184 accessions), and finger millet (713 accessions) have been characterized for highly heritable agro-morphological traits.

Existing mechanisms in ex-situ conservation in Nepal need to be reviewed in this situation and a firm programme undertaken. The Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) explicitly recognizes the need for an ex-situ conservation approach. Nepal has received very limited financial and other support for ex situ conservation and the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
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					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
No proper management practices have been adopted for harvesting forest resources. Particularly in the Terai region, there are problems of deforestation, over harvesting and overgrazing. This has generally hindered adoption of the concept of sustainable use of biological resources. The relatively fragile Siwalik region is also under threat due to these factors. Lack of adequate resources has worsened the situation and threatened efforts at sustainable use of resources for conservation of biodiversity.					
139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programme or policy in place				X	
e) review of implementation available					
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place				X	
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place				X	
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place				X	
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					

143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

144. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	
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. <i>Has your country submitted case-studies on tourism as an example of the sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary?</i>	
a) no	X
b) yes	
152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism?	
a) no	
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	X
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Sustainable Use

The major thrust of the Eighth and the Ninth Five Year Plans has been on sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. The Eighth Plan explicitly states that, among other things, comprehensive legal provisions, which accord priority to sustainability, will be prepared and enforced to facilitate environmental management. The Ninth Plan accords high priority to a management system based on ecosystems (as opposed to individual species); the development of policy and legislation by peoples' participation in the implementation of programmes on biodiversity conservation and use; and, incentives for the tourism industry.

The success stories of community forestry, buffer zone management system, and the achievements of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) are some glaring examples in sustainable use of the components of biological diversity. The conservation model of ACAP is now being replicated in the Kanchanjungha Conservation Area Project (KCAP).

Eco-Tourism

The mountainous kingdom of Nepal is endowed with scenic splendour and natural beauty. The protected areas of the country are major tourist destinations. The number of visitors to national parks and wildlife reserves in both the lowland Terai and mountains are increasing with each passing year. While the parks in the Terai are famous for the endangered Royal Bengal Tiger, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, and the Asian Elephant; the mountain parks attract tourists for trekking, mountaineering and the rich cultural diversity of various ethnic groups.

The development thrust of Nepal is aimed at poverty alleviation and sustainable development especially in rural areas. So, eco-tourism has been considered as an ecologically sound contributing factor to the national economy. The Decentralisation Act of Nepal empowers local government for the use of natural resources so that it contributes to enhancing the economic condition of local people.

In the context of CBD, tourism in Nepal has to be further streamlined towards poverty alleviation and protection of indigenous knowledge and culture in accordance with the national conservation strategy.

National Tourism Plan: The government has prepared a National Tourism Plan, which has 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 2 percent tax is levied on hotel tourism as a conservation fee.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?			
a) High		b) Medium	X
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?			
a) Good		b) Adequate	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources			
No comments.			

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

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	

166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) partially reviewed	X
c) thoroughly reviewed	
d) measures designed based on the reviews	
e) review of implementation available	
167. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
168. Has your country developed legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) frameworks in place	
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	X
c) processes identified but not implemented	
d) processes in place	
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	X
b) identification programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized	
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	X
b) yes	
172. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) early stages of development	X
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Incentives under Community Forestry: So far, 10,966 Community Forest Users Groups (CFUGs) of 1,195,194 households are involved in managing 845,193 ha of land as community forests in Nepal. One of the aims of community forestry is to fulfil the basic needs of the local people for fuel wood, fodder, and grasses. Forest Users Groups can invest the income accrued from sale and distribution of forest produce obtained from the sustainable management of their community forests.

Buffer Zone Management System: The Park management and the local people jointly initiate community development activities and manage natural resources in the buffer zone. His Majesty's Government has made a provision for ploughing back 30-50 percent of the Park revenue for community development in the buffer zone, which is in itself a great incentive for buffer zone communities to undertake conservation activities. The DNPWC has already established Buffer Zones and facilitated their management around Makalu Barun National Park, Sagarmatha National Park, Langtang National Park, Royal Chitwan National Park, Shey Phoksundo National Park, and Royal Bardia National Park.

Incentives in National Parks and Conservation Area: About 45 villages are situated within the Langtang National Park boundaries, but they are not under Park jurisdiction. In total, about 3000 households (16200 people) depend on park resources for wood and firewood.

The Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) grassroots philosophy encourages involvement of local people in all aspects of conservation and development. The project aims to improve the socio-economic condition of local people by integrating conservation and development. It encourages local people's involvement in management of natural resources and community development activities.

Prizes and Awards: Prizes, awards, and letters of appreciation are awarded in order to encourage local people, communities, students, conservation oriented institutions, schools and others who are contributing to conservation of biodiversity. These are distributed on occasions like Wildlife Week, World Environment Day, Wetland Day, Biodiversity Day, and Earth Day. Some of the government instituted awards are:

- **Ganesh Man Singh Puraskar:** It is distributed each year to the best Community Forest Users' Group (CFUG) of Nepal. An amount of NRs. 100,000 is awarded as first prize, and NRs. 50,000 and NRs. 25,000 is awarded to CFUGs in second and third position respectively.
- **Prizes in Kind:** Prizes in kind, such as books on conservation, t-shirts, and posters are given to students each year by organising quiz contests, interactions, sports programmes, and other activities.

Besides these, various agencies such as IUCN - The World Conservation Union, WWF - World Wildlife Fund for Nature, ITNC- International Trust for Nature Conservation, PCPC- Peoples Campaign for Park Conservation, are also contributing towards providing direct and indirect incentives for different target groups and individuals. The Abraham Conservation Award of WWF Nepal recognises dedicated, grassroots conservationists in Nepal. In addition to public recognition, winners receive a cash award and certificates that inspire them to continue conservation efforts. The PCPC provide NRs. 5,000 each year to the best conservation group in Park surroundings.

Article 12 Research and training

173. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
174. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	
				d) Severely limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
<p>In general, efforts at scientific research are very limited. There is little management-related research and training, mostly confined to protected areas. Resource allocation for scientific research on biological and ecological issues is low due to paucity of resources.</p> <p>The government generally encourages scientific research for the preservation of wild genetic diversity. However, capabilities for scientific research and assessment, and monitoring from floral, faunal, and ecological perspectives, need further support.</p>					
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					X
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programmes in place					
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					X
b) yes					
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					X
c) yes - significant extent					
178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					X
c) yes - significant extent					
If a developed country Party -					
179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?					
a) no					
b) yes, where relevant					

Article 13 Public education and awareness

180. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
181. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Ten years after Nepal became a member of the CBD, public education and awareness on conservation and environment has gained good momentum. At the national policy level, conservation education and awareness has been prioritised. It has been emphasised in informal education and adult education by various agencies. Some resources are allocated through collaborative programmes initiated by bilateral and international agencies but its inadequacy has made it difficult for programmes to reach remote areas where the real stakeholders are.					

182. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through media?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
183. Does your country promote and encourage understanding of the importance of, and the measures required for, the conservation of biodiversity (13a) through the inclusion of this topic in education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
184. Does your country cooperate with other States and international organizations in developing relevant educational and public awareness programmes (13b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

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	X
b) significant but not adequate resources	

c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	
b) yes	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	
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	X
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	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	X
c) yes (please give details)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Cross-sectoral conservation strategies of the National Biodiversity Strategy explicitly state that public education and awareness demands public support and participation in biodiversity management. Nepal has been promoting biodiversity related awareness and education for the past decade in both formal and informal education sectors and as a part of numerous conservation projects.

Environmental Education at School: IUCN Nepal in collaboration with the Faculty of Education of Tribhuvan University (TU) has been supporting the government in integrating environmental concepts into the formal and non-formal education systems, promotion of multimedia public awareness campaigns on environmental quality, training of government and NGO staff, and human resource planning and development. Besides these, environmental education curricula including an Environmental Education Source Book for the Bachelor of Education Programme have been developed during 1996-2000. IUCN Nepal worked with Curriculum Development Centre of HMG/N in developing (i) Textbooks on Health, Population and Environmental Education for Grade 9 & 10; (ii) Health, Population and Environmental Education Teachers Guide for Grade 9 and (iii) Source Book on Population and Environmental Education for Grade 6 to 8 in 1999. These curricula extensively cover natural resources and biodiversity components. A book entitled "Primary School Student Achievement in Environmental Education" was published in 1998. Another book entitled "Achievement of Lower Secondary School Students in Population and Environmental Education" was published in 2001.

Conservation Education at Central Zoo: Conservation Education is one of the departments of the KMTNC/ Central Zoo in Nepal. It has three overall goals. The first is to emphasize the importance of conservation education for all people whether students at school, families at home or people in the local community. Since all effective environment conservation efforts are long-term in nature, particular emphasis is on involving children in conservation education. The second goal is to demonstrate to conservation education facilitators (teachers, parents and eco-club leaders) the active role the Central Zoo plays in promoting conservation education. The final goal is to provide conservation education facilitators with procedures necessary for utilising the Central Zoo as an educational resource. The specific conservation education objectives of KMTNC/ Central Zoo are:

- To raise children's awareness and appreciation of the value of natural resources in their environment and the ecological processes that maintain them.
- To enhance children's knowledge and understanding of threats to their environment and effective conservation techniques to protect, preserve and manage their natural resources.
- To motivate children to initiate and participate in conservation efforts, individually and collectively, actively demonstrating that local contributions lead to global improvements in the environment.

Conservation Awareness: There has been a significant shift in the government's policy towards nature and wildlife conservation. The strict law enforcement practices of the early years have given way to a more conciliatory and partnership approach in resource management. Conservation awareness forms an integral part of the conservation policy today. In order to generate conservation awareness, the national parks and wildlife reserves under the Department periodically organise public meetings and other meetings of community based organisations. The Buffer Zone Council and various User Committees

regularly meet to motivate local people for participatory involvement in management of forest resources to fulfil their needs. Moreover, Wildlife Week, Wetland Day, Environment Day, Biodiversity Day and World Heritage Day are celebrated to generate awareness of the people on the importance of nature conservation. Schoolchildren in Kathmandu and outside the Valley and Eco club members are actively involved in celebrations to mark these Days.

The adult education and non-formal education programmes being conducted in the buffer zones of some of national parks aim at generating greater awareness of the people on the importance of nature conservation. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation publishes promotional materials such as brochures, wall posters, newsletters and bulletins. It also mobilises the print and electronic media to disseminate news on conservation activities.

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

194. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
195. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Although a legislation that makes EIA mandatory is in place, implementation is weak because of the lack of adequate resources particularly in making the general public and relevant stakeholders aware of its importance in sustainable development.					
196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					
c) advanced stages of development					
d) legislation in place					X
e) review of implementation available					
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					X
c) yes - significant extent					
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					X
c) advanced stages of development					
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge					
199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					X
c) yes - significant extent					

200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	X
c) some completed, others in progress	
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
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	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
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	
c) no need identified	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	X
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	
d) information provided on the national CHM	
206. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information on measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage to biological diversity?	
a) no	X
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	
d) information provided on the national CHM	

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

207. Has your country integrated environmental impact assessment into programmes on thematic areas and on alien species and tourism?	
a) no	
b) partly integrated	X
c) fully integrated	
208. When carrying out environmental impact assessments does your country address loss of biological diversity and the interrelated socio-economic, cultural and human-health aspects relevant to biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) partly	X
c) fully	
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	X
c) in all circumstances	
210. Does your country ensure the involvement of all interested and affected stakeholders in a participatory approach to all stages of the assessment process?	
a) no	
b) yes - in certain circumstances	X
c) yes - in all cases	

211. Has your country organised expert meetings, workshops and seminars, and/or training, educational and public awareness programmes and exchange programmes in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures for impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) some programmes in place	X
c) many programmes in place	
d) integrated approach to building expertise	
212. <i>Has your country carried out pilot environmental impact assessment projects, in order to promote the development of local expertise in methodologies, techniques and procedures?</i>	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide further details)	
213. Does your country use strategic environmental assessments to assess not only the impact of individual projects, but also their cumulative and global effects, and ensure the results are applied in the decision making and planning processes?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
214. Does your country require the inclusion of development of alternatives, mitigation measures and consideration of the elaboration of compensation measures in environmental impact assessment?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
215. Is national information available on the practices, systems, mechanisms and experiences in the area of strategic environmental assessment and impact assessment?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please append or summarise)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

EIA Policies and Legislation: The Ministry of Population and Environment is responsible for overseeing the implementation of EIA. Environment Protection Act, 1996 and Environment Protection Rules, 1997 provide stakeholders an opportunity to voice their concerns at three stages of the EIA process - legally-before preparation of the Scoping Report (at least 15 days public notice about the proposal), public hearing after the preparation of the draft EIA report, and before report approval (EIA report open to public review for 30 days).

Recognizing the importance of environmental considerations in industrial development, HMG/N endorsed "Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Industry Sector" on 24 July 1995 and published it in the Gazette on 6 November 1995.

HMG/N the Ministry of Population and Environment (MOPE) has developed Environmental Strategies and Policies for Industry, Forestry and Water Resource Sectors. Besides these, MOPE has developed Guidelines for Environmental Planning. It is hoped that the guidelines will help DDC, VDC and Municipality in the implementation of development activities particularly with respect to environment conservation.

EIA Implementation: The EIA programme pioneered the practice of environmental compliance monitoring in a number of hydroelectric power projects of Nepal such as the Bhotekoshi Hydroelectric Project, Kali Gandaki Hydro Power, Middle Marshyangdi Hydro Power, and Melamchi Water Diversion Project. It is also done by various road construction and industrial development projects. Although, EIA policy and legislation have been enacted, strict implementation of the suggested mitigation measures in the EIA report except few is yet to be materialized not only in the case of mega projects but also in small projects. EIA processes and procedures laid down in the regulations need further simplification to suit national framework conditions.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
Issues on Access to Genetic Resources are of growing concern in Nepal. These concerns are firmly advocated through a draft policy and bill on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing. It needs further support from CBD Secretariat and other relevant agencies to facilitate initiatives suitable for developing countries, such as Nepal, to make the policy and law a ground reality.							
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						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	
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 or subsidiary legislation	X
c) Policy and administrative measures	

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

223. Has your country provided the secretariat with information on relevant legislation, administrative and policy measures, participatory processes and research programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes, within the previous national report	
c) yes, through case-studies	
d) yes, through other means (please give details below)	
224. Has your country implemented capacity-building programmes to promote successful development and implementation of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including scientific, technical, business, legal and management skills and capacities?	
a) no	X
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
225. Has your country analysed experiences of legislative, administrative and policy measures and guidelines on access, including regional efforts and initiatives, for use in further development and implementation of measures and guidelines?	
a) no	X
b) analysis in progress	
c) analysis completed	
226. Is your country collaborating with all relevant stakeholders to explore, develop and implement guidelines and practices that ensure mutual benefits to providers and users of access measures?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	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	
b) yes (please provide details)	X

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	X
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Interest in the Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Mechanism has been widely generated at the national level. Yet, it requires adequate discussion and thought, and further support and promotion through developing a knowledge base. The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation is working jointly with other agencies including IUCN on biodiversity and the access to genetic resources and benefit sharing mechanism.

A draft policy and bill on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit sharing has been prepared. The bill is to be tabled in the forthcoming session of Parliament in 2002.

Some of the major objectives outlined in the draft National Policy on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Mechanism are:

- To ensure sharing in a fair and equitable way the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial utilisation of genetic resources.
- To ensure access to and transfer of technology employed in the utilisation of the genetic resources of the Kingdom of Nepal.
- To encourage, promote and protect traditional knowledge.
- To promote cooperation between Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for access to genetic resources and benefit sharing.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

238. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?			
a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	c) Low
239. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?			
a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	c) Limiting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> d) Severely limiting <input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources			
This article is gradually getting priority in Nepal and international support is being explored.			

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) some measures in place	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures under review	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) yes (please give brief details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) relevant, but no measures	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) some measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) potential measures under review	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) comprehensive measures in place	<input type="checkbox"/>
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	X
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	X
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
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

The objective of the Draft National Policy on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing is also to ensure access to and transfer of technology employed in the utilisation of the genetic resources of the Kingdom of Nepal.

The draft policy on Access to Genetic Resources stipulates to impart access to genetic resources for the promotion of technology transfer, transfer of skill and know-how and disclosure of invention through patent regime. The policy on benefit sharing also states that non-monetary benefits from the use of genetic resources, such as transfer of technology including hardware, software and know-how, shall be ensured.

Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?			
a) High		b) Medium	X
248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?			
a) Good		b) Adequate	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources			
No comments.			

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party -	
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	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
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
No comments.					

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	
b) early stages of development	X
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	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
258. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?	
a) no	
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	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	X
b) yes	
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, at the national level	
c) yes, at national and international levels	
263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	X
b) participation only	
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	X
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	X
b) yes	
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

His Majesty's Government of Nepal recently started work on a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

268. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?			
a) High		b) Medium	X
269. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?			
a) Good		b) Adequate	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources			
Biotechnology is a new area for a developing country like Nepal, and the knowledge and resources are severely limited. Yet, it has immense importance in a biologically rich country such as Nepal.			
His Majesty's Government (HMG) of Nepal is in the process of developing the requested biosafety framework. However, very little resources are available for this task.			

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	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	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Nepal's two neighbouring countries—China and India—are developed and advanced in terms of biotechnology. Many products from these countries may contain Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and Living Modified Organisms (LMO) and their product have access to Nepal's markets. The transboundary movement of LMO may occur freely. The issue is a challenge for Nepal. Nepal has yet to develop its capacity and be in a position to track the movement of GMO in its markets. Nepal has always sought to remain a GMO and LMO free state. So Nepal needs to develop its capacity to trace the introduction of LMO/GMO in its territory for which global support and assistance is needed at this stage.

Article 20 Financial resources

273. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
274. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
No comments.					

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	X
c) yes - financial support only	
d) yes - financial support and incentives	
If a developed country Party -	
276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
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	X
b) yes	
If a developed country Party -	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
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	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	X
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	X
b) not in a standardized format	
c) yes (please provide details)	
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
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	
b) yes	
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	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The mechanisms and modalities of accessing the GEF-Fund (and incremental costs) have not been well understood and/or explored so far. A framework for a Nepal Trust Fund for Biodiversity has been proposed.

Although Nepal is rich in biodiversity there is inadequate focus on generating funds for biodiversity conservation and management. The approach of providing funds for in-situ conservation of species should be revisited and countries should be encouraged to use them on a sustainable basis so as to enable them to generate funds locally and minimize the increasing dependency on donors for conservation. Furthermore, Nepal needs to develop her capacity on endemic species so that she could fix the price tag. Protection alone has no meaning for national development. Unless rural poverty is alleviated through sustainable use instruments, sporadic and intermittent efforts could be counter productive. Nepal should advocate for sustainable use and benefit sharing as a significant area is under the protected areas network.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

289. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?							
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low			
290. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources							
No comments.							

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Establishment of Nepal Trust Fund for Biodiversity

His Majesty's Government of Nepal has been working for the establishment of a Nepal Trust Fund for Biodiversity (NTFB) since 1996. In 1996, MFSC/WB explored the possibility of establishing a NTFB for Nepal. A planning workshop of NTFB was held on 2 March 1998. Later, financial gap analysis and various stakeholder consultations were conducted in 1998. HMG has now allocated a budget for NTFB in the Red Book. The draft bill of NTFB has been prepared and is ready for submission to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs for tabling the Bill in the House of Representatives. The draft bill of NTFB deals with the establishment of a Trust Fund; appointment, powers and functions of the Board of Directors, Executive Director and other staff; financial provisions, accounts and reports, while the draft manual on NTFB is mainly divided into two major components—Administrative and Technical. There are eight chapters in the draft manual: Administration, Personnel Policies, Financial Management, Forms, Grant Making Procedures, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Applicant's Manual, and Grantees Manual.

Revenue Generation in Protected Areas

Tourism is a major source of earning foreign exchange in the country. The country's Protected Areas generate revenue from various sources such as the issuing of filming licenses, entrance fees, royalty from hotels in and around protected areas, elephant rides, issuing hunting license in a regulated manner, fines, and issuing license for the export of materials made from the bones of domestic animals.

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

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	X
b) yes	

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

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

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

No comments.

Article 24 Secretariat

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

No comments.

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	1
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	1
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	1
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	1
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	1

Further comments on implementation of this Article

No comments.

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

302. Did all relevant stakeholders participate in the preparation of this national report, or in the compilation of information used in the report?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
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?	
c) making the report available on request?	X
d) posting the report on the Internet?	

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

No comments.

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	
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	X
c) formal co-operation (please give details)	

Inland water ecosystems

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

310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
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
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
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	
c) yes	X

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	X
c) assessments completed	
316. Is this information available to other Parties?	
a) no	
b) yes - national report	X

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

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

<p>Mountain Ecosystem Diversity: An important aspect of mountain biodiversity is the representation of diverse levels/groups of biological organization higher than species-genera, families, phyla, habitats and ecosystems, showing high level of beta diversity. The mountains in general have more lichens, bryophytes and ferns than lowland. Plants and animals have been reported above 5,000m by various biologists. Moss and lichens are seen up to 6,300m, cushions of flowering <i>Stellaria decumbens</i> in Mt. Makalu area up to 6,135m, and <i>Ephedra sp.</i> up to 5,200m. Mammals and birds are seen above 5,000m even in very uncongenial environments for their survival. The integrated mountain watershed conservation programme is being implemented with the active cooperation of local villagers. ICIMOD (International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development) has undertaken several activities related to mountain biodiversity in the last few years. Multiple use trees such as bamboo and fodder trees are being planted to control erosion and land reclamation. Similarly, local varieties of grass are being used as bioengineering material for stabilising soil and conserving water.</p>

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

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

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

No comments.

Agricultural biological diversity

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

329. Has your country identified and assessed relevant ongoing activities and existing instruments at the national level?	
a) no	
b) early stages of review and assessment	
c) advanced stages of review and assessment	X
d) assessment completed	
330. Has your country identified issues and priorities that need to be addressed at the national level?	
a) no	
b) in progress	X
c) yes	
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	
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	X
c) yes - other mechanisms (please specify)	
333. Has your country conducted case-studies on the issues identified by SBSTTA: i) pollinators, ii) soil biota, and iii) integrated landscape management and farming systems?	
a) no	
b) yes - pollinators	
c) yes - soil biota	
d) yes - integrated landscape management and farming systems	X
334. Is your country establishing or enhancing mechanisms for increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
336. Is your country promoting the transformation of unsustainable agricultural practices into sustainable production practices adapted to local biotic and abiotic conditions?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
337. Is your country promoting the use of farming practices that not only increase productivity, but also arrest degradation as well as reclaim, rehabilitate, restore and enhance biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
338. Is your country promoting mobilization of farming communities for the development, maintenance and use of their knowledge and practices in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
339. Is your country helping to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
340. Is your country collaborating with other Contracting Parties to identify and promote sustainable agricultural practices and integrated landscape management?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
342. Is your country promoting regional and thematic co-operation within this framework of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some co-operation	X
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) limited additional funds	X
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	
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	
349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	
b) yes - under consideration	X
c) yes - measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <i>inter alia</i> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	
b) some assessments	X
c) major programme of assessments	

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

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

No comments.

Forest biological diversity

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

359. Has your country included expertise on forest biodiversity in its delegations to the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) not relevant	
360. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes	
361. Has your country integrated forest biological diversity considerations in its participation and collaboration with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
362. Does your country give high priority to allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
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	X
b) yes - submission of case-studies	
c) yes - thematic national report submitted	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
368. Has your country integrated national forest programmes into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans applying the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
369. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure participation by the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes - some stakeholders	X
c) yes - all stakeholders	
370. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks, as well as national and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration?	
a) no	
b) some programmes covering some needs	
c) many programmes covering some needs	X
d) programmes cover all perceived needs	
e) no perceived need	
371. Has your country taken measures to implement the proposals for action of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on valuation of forest goods and services?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	X
c) measures taken	

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

372. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you will implement it?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
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	
b) to a limited extent	X
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	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	

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

Biological diversity: The extreme altitudinal gradient of Nepal has endowed it with 10 bio-climatic zones, from tropical to nival, within a horizontal span of less than 180km north-south, virtually making Nepal a treasure house of biological and cultural diversity. A total of 118 ecosystems, 75 vegetation and 35 forest types, have been identified. Nepal comprises seven ecological zones which occur in the following order south to north: (a) Terai, (b) Siwalik zone, (c) Mahabharat Lekh, (d) Midlands, (e) Himalaya, (f) Inner Himalaya, and (g) Tibetan marginal mountains. Nepal's diversity, and threats, strategies and action plans, have been discussed under six broad categories—forests, rangelands, protected areas, agro-ecosystems, wetlands, and mountain ecosystems.

Forest Diversity: Nepal is well known for its forests that attract a large number of biologists and ecologists who come here for research and study. The biodiversity is of international importance both in terms of the number of globally threatened wildlife and floral elements as well as the diversity of ecosystems represented within the area. The lowlands report 1,885 species of angiosperms, 61 species of bryophytes, 81 species of pteridophytes, and 648 species of birds. It is to be noted here that floristic explorations were less in the lowland than in the mid-hills and highlands. The mid-hills report 3364 species of angiosperms, 493 species of bryophytes, 272 species of pteridophytes, 16 species of gymnosperms, 557 species of butterflies, 76 species of fishes, 29 species of amphibians, 56 species of reptiles, and 691 species of birds. The highlands comprise 38 major ecosystems, with over 2,000 phanerogamic species and a large number of endemic species.

Rangeland Diversity: Collectively, rangelands in Nepal comprise grasslands, pastures, and shrub land and degraded forestland. Rangelands provide a variety of medicinal and aromatic plants from the upper Himalayan region and supply forage or vegetation for grazing or browsing animals. Nepal's rangelands have high biodiversity as they range from subtropical savannas to temperate grasslands and alpine meadows, and cold, arid

steppes north of the Nepal Himalayas. Nepal's total grassland areas are estimated to cover about 1.75 million hectares, or nearly 12 percent of Nepal's total land area. The bulk of rangelands in Nepal are primarily in the high mountains and high Himal areas that make up nearly 79.83 percent of Nepal's total land area. Nepal's high altitude rangelands are home to a unique assemblage of flora and fauna, with about 131 endemic plant species (53 percent of the total number of endemic plants in Nepal), 41 key non-timber forest products including primarily medicinal herbs. Endangered wildlife species occur predominantly in this region; they include the snow leopard, Tibetan wolf, Tibetan argali, lynx, brown bear, Tibetan wild ass, and wild yak (status unclear). Although bird species diversity is low, 9 species are restricted to alpine rangeland and 5 species of international significance are found in rangeland. Of over 20 indigenous breeds of livestock species that are found in Nepal, 8 endemic breeds are from the alpine region.

Dry and Sub-humid Lands: The dry and arid lands of the high Himalayan region mainly represent Nepal's dry and sub-humid lands. To a larger extent, they are characterised by the biodiversity of the Tibetan Plateau that lies to the north of Nepal. Dry and sub-humid lands in Nepal occur in places such as Mustang (Annapurna Conservation Area), Dolpo (Shey Phoksundo National Park), Sagarmatha National Park and some other similar places that fall within the Protected Area System of National Parks, Conservation Areas, and Hunting Reserves. Despite the unique floral and faunal species (with some endemic species around) diversity of these lands, the government has allocated minimum resources and paid less attention towards their development as access is limited and the lands are mostly wilderness. Very little research has been conducted in these parts of the nation.

Resource Constraints: There are severe resource constraints for scientific management and conservation of high altitudinal protected areas such as Shey Phoksundo National Park, Sagarmatha National Park, Langtang National Park, Makalu Barun National Park and Conservation Area, Rara National Park, Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, Kanchanjungha Conservation Area, Annapurna Conservation Area, and Khaptad National Park.

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	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	

Please use this box to identify what specific activities your country has carried out as a DIRECT RESULT of becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention, referring back to previous questions as appropriate:

Formation of National Coordination Committee and other Steering Committees for Biodiversity Conservation:

A National Coordination Committee for Biodiversity Conservation (NCCBC) was formed under the chairmanship of Honourable vice-chairman of NPC with 22 other members. Under the NCCBC the following exist:

1. A National Biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC) under the chairmanship of the Secretary of Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MFSC) already exists.
2. A National Agro-biodiversity Steering Committee (NABSC) under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA). This will deal with cultivated/domesticated crop and biodiversity and their wild relatives and related biodiversity mostly found within and around the farm fence;
3. A similar committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce; and
4. Biodiversity Registration Co-ordination Committee (BRCC) under the co-ordination of the Honourable Member (Agriculture) of the National Planning Commission.

Development of Various National Policies, Legislation, and Documents: The Environment Protection Act 1996 defined the word 'biodiversity' for the first time in Nepal.

The Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation (MoFSC) approved the Buffer Zone Management Guidelines in August 1999. The Guidelines have been implemented in the five Buffer Zones already declared by HMG/Nepal. Detailed guidelines have been provided for the implementation of provisions related to the Buffer Zones of the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act as well as the Buffer Zone Management Regulation at the field level. Moreover, it facilitates the work of government staff and User Committees in Buffer Zone Programmes. In addition, regulation for government-managed conservation areas has been passed to enhance community participation in conservation and local development.

The Bill on the Fifth Amendment to the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1973 has been prepared and forwarded for the approval of the Cabinet. Among other things, the new amendment includes provision for farming of common wildlife species, invigoration of research studies, detailed specification of the provisions of Buffer Zone, and specifications relating to the exchange of wildlife species with other countries.

A number of Bills related to conservation of biodiversity such as Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing, Implementation of the CITES, and Plant Resources Conservation Bill have been finalised and forwarded for the approval of the Cabinet. A CITES unit has been established within the DNPWC to carry out various activities related to the effective implementation of CITES.

After becoming a party to CBD and with the Convention coming into force in December 1993, Nepal has developed a number of national policy documents dealing with issues of conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of resources. They include:

G. Acts

- Local self-Governance Act, 1998.
- Environment Protection Act, 1997.
- Forest Act, 1993.

H. Rules

- Government Management on Conservation Areas Rules, 2000.
- Environment Protection Rules, 1997.
- Conservation Areas Management Rules, 1996.

- Buffer Zone Management Rules, 1996.
- Forest Rules, 1995.

I. Guidelines

- Buffer Zone Management Guideline, 1999.
- EIA Guidelines for Industrial Sector, 1995.
- EIA Guidelines for Forestry Sector, 1995.
- National Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines, 1993.

J. Policy and Plan

- The Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).
- Nepal Agriculture Perspective Plan, 1995.
- The Nepal Environmental Policy and Action Plan: Integrating Environment and Development, 1993.
- The Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-1997).

K. Strategy

- Nepal Biodiversity Strategy, 2002 (draft).

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

There have been initiatives for transboundary Protected Area System supportive corridor and connectivity development programmes with India.

Negotiations have been initiated with China for joint study of biodiversity in seven villages in Nepal and Tibet. These villages fall within the Kanchanjunga Conservation Area (KCA) in the eastern region of Nepal that has unique mountain ecosystems. It is envisioned as a tri-national peace park with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of China to the north and Sikkim, India, to the east. The Kangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim adjoins KCA whereas the extension of Qomolungma Nature Reserve in TAR to cover the land bordering KCA is underway. In April 1997, His Majesty's Government of Nepal declared Kanchenjunga region as a Gift to the Earth as part of the WWF 'Living Planet Campaign 2000'.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation joined hands with WWF Nepal Programme to launch the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Project in 1997 for the sustainable management of the region's pristine ecosystem. The Department and WWF are presently working with community-based organisations of the area for participatory management of natural resources and also to improve the living conditions of local people through integrated conservation and development.

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

In Nepal, the Convention has raised public awareness on the need for conservation. The traditional approach to species conservation has slightly shifted towards an ecosystem approach. However, mechanisms for sustainable use and benefit sharing need to be developed in order to open avenues for resource generation at the national level.

Although the Parties are obliged to meet international commitments, the Convention should open avenues that help to alleviate poverty and bring people into the mainstream of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. For this, it would be appropriate to focus activities to know what resources we have and how we can utilise them, and how benefits could be shared with poor people who have been involved in their conservation over generations. The approach of top consumers management should be revisited and equal emphasis should be given to plants that provide habitat for wild animals, and provide food for a growing population and generate income. Similarly, parties from the developed world should make necessary arrangements to provide additional funding for biodiversity registration and share the benefits of

biodiversity use. A similar approach should be considered to attract pharmaceutical firms to invest at least 10 percent of their income in biodiversity exploration and research. The present practice of extracting biodiversity constituents through tax money and providing research findings to private pharma companies should be avoided. Alternatively, HMG could charge significant amounts while providing technologies and research findings to private companies.

The wording of these questions is based on the Articles of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties. Please provide information on any difficulties that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions

No comments.

If your country has completed its national biodiversity strategy and action plan (NBSAP), please give the following information:

Date of completion:	February, 2002		
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government			
By which authority?	Cabinet (It is under the process for adaptation by the government)		
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:	For obtaining a hard copy of NBSAP request is to be made to Dr. Uday Raj Sharma, Chief, Environment Division, Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation.		
If the NBSAP has been posted on a national website			
Please give full URL:			
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF			
Please indicate which agency:			
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes		No	

Please provide similar details if you have completed a Biodiversity Country Study or another report or action plan relevant to the objectives of this Convention

Nepal Biodiversity Strategy (NBS):

The NBS is at the approval stage.

Some studies by Biodiversity Profile Project:

- Biodiversity assessment of Terai wetlands (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Enumeration of Amphibians and Reptiles of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Enumeration of the Lichens of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Red data book of the Fauna of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Enumeration of the Spiders of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Enumeration of the Mammals of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Biodiversity assessment of forest ecosystems of the Western Midhills of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Biodiversity assessment of forest ecosystems of the Central Midhills of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Biodiversity assessment of forest ecosystems of the Eastern Midhills of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Enumeration of the Fishes of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Enumeration of the Algae of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Biodiversity profile of the Terai and Siwalik physiographic Zones (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Biodiversity profile of the Midhills physiographic Zone (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Biodiversity profile of the High Himal High Mountains physiographic Zone (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- An assessment of the representation of the terrestrial ecosystems in the protected areas system of Nepal (1995). His Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.
- Opportunities for investment in biodiversity conservation in Nepal (1995). His

Majesty's Government of Nepal/Government of the Netherlands Biodiversity Profiles Project. Kathmandu.

Other publications:

- An Inventory of Nepal's Insects: Volume III (Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera & Diptera) (2000).
- National Register of Medicinal Plants (2000). HMG/IUCN Nepal, Kathmandu.
- Nepal Country Report on Biological Diversity (1999). IUCN Nepal, Kathmandu.
- National Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Policy and Legislative Requirements (1998). IUCN Nepal, Kathmandu.
- An inventory of Nepal's Terai Wetlands (1998). IUCN Nepal, Kathmandu.
- An Inventory of Nepal's Insects: Volume II (Lepidoptera) (1998).
- An Inventory of Nepal's Insects (Protura-Odonata) (1997).

Please provide details of any national body (e.g. national audit office) that has or will review the implementation of the Convention in your country

CBD National Focal Point:

Once the Nepal Biodiversity Strategy is approved, a National Biodiversity Coordination Committee (NBCC) is envisaged to steer and oversee implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. NBCC is a multidisciplinary team comprising 15 members from various sectoral agencies.