

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
Third National Report
2006

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A. REPORTING PARTY

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Information on the preparation of the report

Box I.

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

The General Commission of Environmental Affairs in the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment asked National stakeholders to nominate a representative to report about the activities related to CBD, which have been carried out since the Second National Report. These were the ministries (Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, Ministry of Irrigation, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education), Research Centers (Universities and Centers of Research), Public Organizations (Women Union, Farmers Union, Youth Union and Handcraft syndicate), Regional and International Organizations working in Syria (ICARDA, ACSAD and AOAD) and Non Governmental Organizations (Wildlife Protection Organization, Syrian Environment Organization). Each of these partners nominated a representative and a ministerial decree was issued by the minister of LAE delegating the work to this called Technical Committee headed by Dr. Akram Khouri, the Director General of Environmental Affairs. UNDP Office in Damascus, as an Executing Agency of the Third National Report, nominated a national Coordinator to help in compiling the report.

Meetings were held to explain the questions and the forms which each national stakeholder has prepared. Accordingly, a preliminary draft was prepared and discussed during a special meeting day. The information which was brought by the partners was included in the draft. A national workshop was held and each party presented its contribution. The draft was put in final form and translated into English to be signed and sent to the Secretariat.

B. PRIORITY SETTING, TARGETS AND OBSTACLES

Box II.

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

Situated in the south-west of Asia to the east of the Mediterranean, Syria is dominated by a Mediterranean climate in its coastal and mountain parts

Syria has a Mediterranean coast of 183 kilometers. The national country study registered 1713 living species, out of which 686 plants and 1027 000 animals. The annual fish production is about 2776 tons this marine diversity suffers from many threads like sand mining, pollution and over fishing. The national plan proposed an integrated management plan for the whole Syrian coast, the protection of fresh watercourses flooding into the sea from pollution, the protection of natural habitats and the management of sea fishing and the establishment of a marine museum and the compiling of a national list of endangered species.

Adopted indicators for the execution of this plan are

- The execution of measures of protection
- Declaration of marine protected areas
- Decrease of marine pollution
- Rehabilitation of degraded and damaged sites

The number of declared nature protected areas at the time of the ratification of the national strategy, action plan was 16 forest protection areas, 30 rangeland protected areas, and one wetland protected area. The national plan recommended the establishment of a network of national protected areas covering all ecosystems in the country. It also recommended the delimitation of these protected areas, training of a management staff of each and the establishment of a databank on different endangered species. To be monitored later on.

The indicators of achieving this objective were defined.

- Increase of the number of the declared protected areas
- Establishment of a management institution for each protected area.
- Nomination of a national committee for the management of the national network of protected areas.
- Execution of field, social and economical survey of each of the protected areas.

The national plan aimed at the development of national agricultural systems into environment friendly practices, which adopt sustainable use of biological and other national resources. The environmental assessment of all agriculture development projects and the rehabilitation of the degraded and desertified areas, integrated. , Chemical fertilization and chemical .

The indicators which were adopted for this objective are;

- Nomination of a scientific committee for the protection of agro-biodiversity
- Increase of biological integrated

The national plan aimed at defining the carrying capacity of the rangelands in the Badia, cooperation with farmer's cooperatives in the rehabilitation in the degraded areas and the use of rainwater harvesting in vegetation regeneration. It also recommended the strict application of hunting laws and the extension of protected areas in the Badia.

The indicators for realizing this objectives are:

- Estimation of animal carrying capacity of rangelands

- ❑ Increase of protected areas and the rehabilitated sites
- ❑ Strict application of hunting laws

The national plan recommended the protection of forest and reforestation sites and the protection of plant and animal species in these systems. This meant the protection of all types of forests and the extension of rehabilitation areas and control of soil erosion, forest surveys by the use of GIS and remote sensing. Reforestation operations have to be restricted to roadsides, around cities and villages, mountain slopes, riverbanks and lakes, and national parks. It stressed the prohibition of collecting herbs out of the forests to insure the survival of diversity. It recommended the establishment of plant nurseries and seed banks to meet the need of reforestation and rehabilitation with local plant species. The indicators of meeting this objectives are:

- ❑ Increase of reforested areas and forest nurseries
- ❑ Rehabilitation of degraded forest with their biodiversity
- ❑ Decrease of forest fires per year
- ❑ Increase protected areas in the forest and reforested areas
- ❑ Recovery of wildlife in the forest and reforested areas
- ❑

The national action plan aimed at the protection of plant and animal genetic resources through the establishment of field collection, gene bank and live collection of animals. It demanded the increase of appropriate training for the management of these collections and fields and the report of scientific research in this domain. It called for supporting the farmers to continue using land races and local breeds. The indicators mentioned for meeting this objective are

- ❑ Increase of used plant races and local animal breeds.
- ❑ Increase of research stations for breeding land races and local breeds
- ❑ Support of scientific research in the domain of plant and animal scientific resources.
- ❑

The national action plan demanded updating of legislation and laws related to the management of land and animal species and the sustainable use of biological resources and the definition of plant and animal genetic resources rights. It asked for special legislation to protect water resources, soil resources and biodiversity from industrial projects. It recommended the use of biodiversity conservation in the curricula of schools at different levels. It recommended special laws for protected areas and the increase of public awareness programs in all available areas. The indicators to meet these objectives are:

- ❑ Updating of national legislation to conform with modern biodiversity conservation
- ❑ Updating of laws related to protection of plant and animal species
- ❑ Creating special laws to encourage nature protection

❑ The national action plan recommended the support of scientific research on biological biodiversity through scientific research plans in the universities and research centers and the delegation of high studies towards that aim. It recommended the availability of scientific references, laboratories and technical staff it asked for a developed information system and Internet use on biodiversity. The indicators to meet this objective are:

- ❑ Assignment of necessary budget for scientific research
- ❑ Training of technical staff which is necessary for scientific research
- ❑ Cooperation at Arabic, regional and international level in scientific research on biodiversity.

The national action plan aimed at clarifying the positive and negative sides of the use of biotechnology and genetic engineering through scientific research and the ratification of bio-safety protocol, support of medicine industry which uses biotechnology, establishment of a special national institution for bio-safety, enrolling biotechnology in universities and research centers, establishment

of a scientific databank on scientific engineering and making special laws and regulating for the use of GAO's . The indicators for meeting these objectives are:

- ❑ Start making special legislation for the use of GMO.
- ❑ Train special staff for the use of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

The national action plan asked for environmental education and public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and sustainable use of its components because it is a national heritage. It asked for the development of higher educational programs and the introduction of environment and biodiversity concepts at different education levels. It asked for more out of the classroom activities to familiarize the students with national biodiversity and biological resources. It asked for the development of radio, television and other media programs on environmental education and the importance of biological resources in development The indicators to meet these objectives are:

- ❑ Carrying out training courses and meetings on biodiversity on different levels
- ❑ Development of special media programs on biodiversity
- ❑ Upgrading of public awareness by the use of informatics
- ❑ Increase of awareness campaigns

The national action plan called for Arabic and international cooperation, exchange of information, and the sharing of benefits through the increase of multilateral projects on biodiversity of neighboring countries and the protecting of the habitats of migrating species. The indicators of achieving this objective are:

- ❑ Bilateral projects between neighboring countries on biological biodiversity
- ❑ Exchange of information and expertise between neighboring countries
- ❑ Attendance of regional and international meetings on biodiversity

Threats to Biodiversity in Syria and Needs to Stop them:

1- Threats in the Forests:

1. Forest Fires: Continue fire prevention campaign. Provide well equipped fire trucks.
1. Urban/Agricultural Expansion: Improve land-use planning by involving Ministries of Environment and Agriculture in review of land-use master plans.
2. Uncontrolled Grazing: Investigate the possibility of reducing the high numbers of sheep entering forests and providing alternative work for shepherds.
3. Uncontrolled Wood Cutting: Provide alternative sources of energy such as solar energy/gas for heating/cooking to reduce demand on wood.
4. Charcoal Production: Continue to support old and new development projects to raise low income level.
5. Desertification: Implement the recommendations of the CCD as they relate to conditions in Syria.
6. Forest Fragmentation: Limit incursions in forests and expand the size of forests and create corridors to connect those areas
7. Laws and Regulations: More legal coverage of forest issues with a focus on sustainable use of forest resources .Appoint special court for forest issues
8. Extension Services: Lack of extension services due to low budgets and not enough qualified extension agents
9. Alien Species: Stop the importation of alien trees & shrubs for reforestation and landscaping and use only local varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers for reforestation and landscaping throughout Syria.

2- Threats in the Dry Lands

1- Degradation of Soil : Develop projects that provide alternative livelihoods for sheep farmers in the Badia.

Update legislation/appoint enforcement body to protect Badia

Stabilize sand dunes.

2- Degradation of Vegetative Cover: Specify grazing areas for different grazing unions in Badia. Expand protected grazing areas and replant degraded areas. Develop grazing systems that minimize open, early and uncontrolled grazing and adhere to carrying capacity of rangeland and involve local inhabitants in control of grazing.

Establish seed/gene centers for propagation of grazing plants.

Develop alternative feeds for sheep.

3- Poor Environmental Awareness of Local Inhabitants: Provide basic services to human settlements (education, health, electricity, telephone, vet services). Support extension services to raise environmental awareness and promote collaborative management.

Raise environmental awareness among women, .Encourage and develop traditional handicrafts.

.Establish milk collecting and processing centers. Establish emergency funds.

4- Wood Cutting Encourage use of alternative energy sources such as solar energy.

5- Mechanization Provide a system of roads to connect settlements in the Badia.

Introduce special conditions and fees for the use of large and heavy equipment.

6- Depletion of Water Resources: Minimize uncontrolled drilling and misuse of water resources. Allocate water for livestock. Use water harvesting techniques. Renovate Roman wells.

3. Threats to Water Life:

1- Uncontrolled Fishing: Prepare fishing guidelines that include:

Plan for sustainable fish harvest based on stocks of fish. Plan to protect fisheries against illegal activities. Promote ecotourism and raise awareness by: Activating role of media to explain sustainable tourism. Establishing natural history museums and aquariums.

2- Pollution: Introduce organic agriculture and alternative pest control. Limit use of chemical fertilizers. Review concept of food self-sufficiency. Build waste water treatment plants. Follow international waste water standards.

Introduce EIA for each industrial project and a treatment plant based on international standards. Establish recycling plants and solid waste dumps.

3- Destruction of: habitats in coastal areas and river courses: Forbid the removal of sand from the seashore, pebbles and stones from rivers and provide alternative sources. Limit urban expansion and implement laws and regulations for the protection of the coast. Stop the drainage of wetlands and use wetland areas as refuges for migrating and resident birds.

4- Depletion of water resources: Control drilling permits

Implement laws and regulations

5- Pollution from Marine Shipping: Treat waste and ballast water in country of origin and/or destination to avoid introduction of alien species. Outlaw dumping of petroleum and provide treatment plants.

Modernize Syrian tanker fleet to meet international standards.

4. Threats to Biodiversity of Wildlife

1- Hunting: Organize local hunting clubs, Publish special booklets on the ethics of hunting, habitats of different species, hunting seasons and limits on each species. Improve coordination between authorities in implementation of hunting laws and bans. Establish hunting stations to control activities near forests and hunting grounds.

Increase captive breeding of endangered species for release into wild..

2- Disappearance of the vegetative cover:/Uncontrolled uncontrolled Grazing: Schedule grazing times and patterns. Use modern methods of range management. Harvest seasonal flood waters in the Badia.

Revive the ancient Arab tradition that forbids the use of plows to break up the topsoil in semiarid rangelands. Reduce uprooting of trees and shrubs and provide alternative sources of energy for heating and cooking. Prepare annual guides (booklets / posters) of wild flora and provide more protection for rare species of plants.

3- Climate change: Provide sources of drinking water for wildlife.

Halt practice of burning crop residues.

4- Pollution: Use IPM to combat and control pests instead of poisonous pesticides and chemical fertilizers. Restrict housing and urban expansion in forests and agricultural areas. Control expansion of industrial sites by not issuing industrial permits in environmentally sensitive areas. Minimize noise pollution near forests and protected areas rich in wildlife.

- 5- Unplanned tourism: Organize and encourage environmentally sensitive local tourism. Limit and control Arab hunting expeditions in all of Syria. Avoid desert car rallies in ecologically sensitive areas
- 6- Forest fires and wood cutting: Provide alternative fuels or sources of energy such as solar, wind, liquid gas, etc. Provide alternative jobs to replace traditional methods and introduce local inhabitants to the benefits of conserving their biodiversity.
- 7- Lack of sufficient implementation of laws and regulations. Enforce stricter observance of hunting laws and discourage courts from practicing leniency in punishing wildlife offenders. Incorporate wildlife considerations in all EIAs before granting agricultural and industrial permits. Enact new and progressive laws governing hunting and protect rare and endangered species of plants/animals from hunters.
- 8- Disruption of food chains: Study local food chains and disseminate the information to increase knowledge of their importance to wildlife conservation

5. Socio-Economic Factors

- 1- Overgrazing in the forests and Badia: Use of by-products for cattle feed. Plant fodder crops where possible. Grazing schedule based on carrying capacity. Share benefits with local people. Increase awareness of danger of depleting natural resources.
- 2- Unregulated hunting: Establish hunting clubs. Regulate hunting seasons and species. Implement hunting laws and regulations
- 3- Wood gathering in the Badia: Provide alternative fuels or sources of energy such as solar, wind, liquid gas, etc.. Promote sale of local produce to raise standard of living. Plant wood producing shrubs for firewood.
- 4- Wood cutting in the forest: Restrict charcoal production. Provide alternative sources of income to meet daily needs.. Share in the benefits from wood products in the forest.
- 5- Man made fires: Demarcation of borders between private and public lands.. Implement laws to protect forest.
- 6- Poorly planned tourism: Develop infrastructure and facilities to serve the practical needs of tourism at selected sites. Raise awareness of importance of environment and biodiversity.
- 7- Emigration: Generate income by means of small loans to stimulate employment.
- 8- Illiteracy: Build more schools where they are needed. Enforce obligatory schooling to increase literacy and a better understanding of biodiversity.

6. Legislative Requirements

- 1- Absence of Environmental Law and Protection & Exchange of Genetic Material: Ratify Environmental Law (NB this law was approved on 26 June 2002). More efforts to ratify and enact environmental laws.
- 2- Absence of Bio-safety regulations: Adopt recommendations of Bio-safety workshop held at the Ministry of Higher Education on 13 May 2002. Review draft of bio-safety law.
- 4- Hunting and fishing: Adopt effective procedures for notification of hunting and fishing laws and regulations to officials for enforcement. Mount public awareness campaign to alert the public about hunting and fishing regulations.
- 5- Uncontrolled use of forest resources: Review and modernize reforestation law to take into consideration the need for a comprehensive management of forests and the legitimate needs of the public.
- 6- Courts that dismiss forest violator: Empower judges to reduce sentences based on the particularities of each offence within the scope of the law.
- 7- Uncontrolled grazing Update grazing laws and regulations to include local public participation in management and monitoring of grazing lands.
- 8- Marine pollution: Adopt proper procedures for the implementation of Marine Pollution laws pertaining to regional and international waters
- 9- Poor urban planning: Update and enforce urban development and landscape plans for cities and towns and limit haphazard expansion of urban areas throughout Syria

National Needs for Monitoring Biodiversity:

1- Monitoring Forest and Reforested Area Biodiversity

- 1- Survey all flora and fauna, particularly endangered and threatened species, beginning with protected areas followed by forests and reforested areas.
- 2- Determine monitoring criteria and measurement methods applicable to each of the Governorates of

Syria.

3- Train qualified groups to undertake such monitoring in each protected area.

4- Establish monitoring criteria to measure public participation and income generation in forests and reforested areas.

5- Monitor the level of cooperation and coordination between all the relevant Ministries particularly Agriculture, Environment and Higher Education.

6- Establish a unified data bank for all the organizations working in biodiversity.

7- Consider forest protected areas as national investments to be utilized.

8- Measure level of change in biotic populations by means of qualified staff.

9- Publish results of monitoring surveys.

2- Monitoring Protected Areas Biodiversity- Socio-Economic and Legal Aspects

1- Monitor the increase/decrease in the quantity and quality of biodiversity as an indicator of the success or failure of biodiversity programmes.

2- Monitor the increase/decrease in the level of rural development of communities in and around forests and protected.

3- Involve local communities in monitoring biodiversity thereby raising their awareness and involving them in managing biodiversity.

4- Monitor the implementation of biodiversity laws and regulations by the institutions responsible for their management and recommend improvements to those laws.

3- Monitoring Badia and Arid Land Biodiversity

1. Classification: train staff, provide equipment, and determine genetic variation within commercial crops.

2. Monitoring: train staff at all levels in participating institutions and organizations to monitor selected indicators of the status of biodiversity, and delegate the responsibility of monitoring coordination and determining priorities to the Ministry of Environment.

3. Data base: Establish a data base information system based on GIS technology of all plants and animals in the Badia particularly those arid land species with economic value.

4- Monitoring Water Biodiversity

1. Coordinate policies and programmes among government bodies involved in water issues.

2. Determine monitoring priorities based on the degree of threat faced by the different bodies of water.

3- Identify threatened species of plants and animals that serve as indicators of biodiversity in water bodies.

4- Monitor status of biodiversity using local groups of people to carry out the work and train those groups to identify indicator species and record their observations on a regular basis.

5- Monitoring Wildlife Biodiversity

1. Identify a central authority for wildlife conservation that would standardize the criteria for monitoring wildlife and train all concerned staff involved in monitoring.

2. Establish wildlife monitoring centers in all the Govern orates and provide them with data base facilities that allow them to record wildlife species, numbers, location and time of sightings.

3- Introduce basic monitoring principles in educational texts.

Priority Setting

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

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

r) Article 20 - Financial resources			X
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism			X
t) Agricultural biodiversity	X		
u) Forest biodiversity		X	
v) Inland water biodiversity		X	
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity		X	
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity		X	
y) Mountain biodiversity		X	

Challenges and Obstacles to Implementation

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

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

institutional weakness																		
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2
g) Loss of traditional knowledge	3	3	3	3	N/A	N/A	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	2	2	3	2	N/A	N/A	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	2	2	3	3	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	2	2	3	3	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	3	3	N/A	N/A	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	2	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	3	2	2	2	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	23	3	2	2	2
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among	1	1	1	1	N/A	N/A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

2010 Target

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

Box III.

Goal 1	Promote the conservation of the biological diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes.
Target 1.1	At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions

effectively conserved			
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>One of the important objectives of the National Plan was the protection of all nature sites in the forests and other natural ecosystems. Another objective was the establishment of a national network of protected areas and we did not mention any percentage as mentioned in the global target. Up till now 1,27% of the total area of Syria is protected. It is for seen that the global aim of 10% will be realized at a later stage of the execution of the National Plan.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Protection of plant and animal genetic resources.
b) Inland water	X		The protection of water resources and their living components
c) Marine and coastal	X		Establishment of a network of coastal and marine protected areas. Updating and application of laws related to the protection of marine biodiversity.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Establishment of range land protected areas and prohibition of farming and ploughing in the Badia
e) Forest	X		Establishment of nature protected areas and prohibition of wood cutting and fire fighting measures with modern equipments and methods.
f) Mountain	X		Establishment of special protected areas and reforestation of bare areas.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The recommendations and the plan to meet this target are mentioned in the National Plan in coordination between the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Irrigation which are responsible for protected areas. There is a general trend towards more effective execution which would correspond to the Global Target.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>1. Biodiversity and conservation are considered important at national level. But in spite all efforts by different national stakeholders at different levels, biological diversity is still exposed to threats through man made activities which result from population increase. The general trend of the policy of the government is to decrease this degradation and to conserve biodiversity components and natural ecosystems.</p> <p>2. Twenty two nature protected areas have been declared in different ecosystems of the country..</p>			

These are:

- 2.1. four wetland protected areas.
- 2.2. one wild life protected area.
- 2.3. A special Bald Ibis protected area.
- 2.4. Three coastal protected area.
- 2.5. Thirteen forest protected areas.

3. A project for the establishment of three nature protected areas is being executed with GEF financing (Jabal Abdelaziz, Abu Qubeis and Frunluk.).
4. Many Sites are proposed for protection

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

1. Increase of the number and the area of protected areas.
2. The protection of threatened species and reintroduction of extinct ones.
3. Decrease of the threats on Biodiversity.
4. Protected areas cover all national ecosystems

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

- 1- Lack of trained staff to manage protected areas.
- 2-Lack of public awareness
- 3- The difficulty of affording alternative livelihood resources for local people around protected areas to stop traditional use of natural resources.
- 4- Increased man made activities as a result of population growth.
- 5- lack of coordination among stakeholders.-

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box IV.

Target 1.2	Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	
b) Yes, the same as the global target	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<input type="checkbox"/> National Strategy and Action Plan included environmental considerations to decrease all environmental threats in development projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Declaration and establishment of protected areas.	
<input type="checkbox"/> The national accepted criteria for protected areas include protected areas of special importance such as Northern Bald Ibis Protected Area.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Updating legislation and laws (hunting law, forestry law, water life, etc.). All positive necessary measures such as protection , public awareness and public participation and the prohibition of negative activities such as over hunting Badia cultivation and pollution.	

II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Encourage the use of local plant genetic resources and breeding local animal races.
b) Inland water	X		Protection of water bodies and resources from pollution and illegal use.
c) Marine and coastal	X		An integrated coastal management.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Range lands protected areas
e) Forest	X		Nature protected areas and forest fire management.
f) Mountain	X		Reforestation campaigns and the use of original tree species which were available on these mountains.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>These objectives were mentioned in :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Strategy and Action Plan. 2. National Plan for Environmental Protection 3. National Plan for Desertification Control. 4. National Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity. 5. The updating of national legislation. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
A general trend of the policy of the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Agriculture, Irrigation and other national stakeholders.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
Up till this date no integrated monitoring programs have been approved for the state of biodiversity. Monitoring is based on biological studies. The National Strategy and Action Plan mentions the necessity of an integrated monitoring plan.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No sufficient trained staff. 2. No sufficient public awareness. 3. Financial budgets are not enough for the execution of these targets. 4. Manmade damage is increasing as a result of population growth. 5. Lack of coordination among stakeholders. 			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box V.

Goal 2	Promote the conservation of species diversity		
Target 2.1	Restore, maintain, or reduce the decline of populations of species of selected taxonomic groups		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
This target was mentioned in the NBSAP in the articles 9, 10, 11 mentioned in the begin of this report.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		The protection of plant and animal genetic resources.
b) Inland water	X		Improvement of fishing regulations in inland waters by fixing a fishing season, The increase of fishnet openings and the alleviation of pollution.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Protection of marine fauna, especially fish, through controlling marine fishing season and fishing methods.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	Protection of rangeland plants in the Badia.
e) Forest	X		Declaration of nature protected areas and protection of forests from different threats.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
The National Strategy and Action Plan points in most of its objectives to direct protection of diversity of species such as protection, rehabilitation of threatened species , gene banks and alleviation of threats. It mentions also indirect methods like scientific research and public awareness.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

The execution of this target is still in its beginning, but it is not negative . It is carried out through the establishment of different types of protected areas and species rehabilitation. The general trends are positive and aim to the protection of the diversity of species in natural ecosystems.

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

1. Checklists of animals and plants especially threatened species.
2. Monitoring the state of species.
3. Reintroduction of extinct species and rehabilitation of threatened ones.
4. Healthy ecosystems.

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

1. No available documented lists of all plant and animal species and their state.
2. Deficiency of taxonomy specialists for some plant families and more so for animal species.
3. Deficiency of an integrated data bank for all plants and animals.
4. Insufficient budgets to carry out integrated studies and projects to protect individual species.
5. Lack of coordination among stakeholders.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VI .

Target 2.2	Status of threatened species improved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target	X		
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Conservation of threatened plant and animal genetic resources.
b) Inland water	X		Prohibition of fishing threatened species.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Prohibition of fishing threatened species and the protection of their habitat such as marine turtles.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Rehabilitation of threatened species and their protection.

e) Forest	X		Rehabilitation of threatened species and their protection.
f) Mountain	X		Rehabilitation and protection of threatened species in the mountains.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>The National Strategy and Action Plan mentions in its objectives the necessity of protecting threatened species and rehabilitation of their habitats. This is going on and includes the protection of Abies, Cedar and Pistacia trees; and the reintroduction of ORYX, Gazelle in some sites like Jabal Abdelaziz, Talila, Udhami and Thawra.</p> <p>A special protected area was declared for the Northern Bald Ibis.</p> <p>Such a target was partially included in Agricultural sector.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>There is a general trend of threatened species protection and conservation in protected areas such as nature reserves and other protected areas or ex situ such as gene banks and field collections or live collections. Some extinct animals have been reintroduced like Arabian Oryx and gazelles in some protected areas (Jabal Abdelaziz, Talila, Udhami, Thawra).</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>Reappearance of threatened or extinct species at national level in their natural ecosystems and monitoring the numbers of these species.</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no correct estimations over wild threatened plant and animal species 2. There are no national lists of threatened plant and animal species and the state of each of them. 3. Insufficient equipment to monitor wildlife, especially small species. 4. Insufficient budgets to execute this target in an integrated way. 5. Lack of public awareness. <p>We use red data records of IUCN or the estimation of national experts in the evaluation of the state of each specie at national level.</p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
<p>In spite of different obstacles there are many attempts to protect some species. We are cooperating with International Birdlife through AEWA under the umbrella of CMS to make a national plan to protect the Bald Ibis.</p>			

Box VII.

Goal 3	Promote the conservation of genetic diversity		
Target 3.1	Genetic diversity of crops, livestock, and of harvested species of trees, fish and wildlife and other valuable species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This objective was mentioned in the NBSAP. The legislation adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture aims at the protection of national genetic resources of plants and animals. Agricultural Research Institute and ACSAD have compiled special gene banks for the conservation of these resources, especially cereals (wheat and barley), fruit trees, Shaami goats and Arabian camels. ICARDA has a gene bank of wild relatives and varieties of cultivated cereals in cooperation with IPIGRI.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Conservation of local plant and animal races
b) Inland water	X		Conservation of local fish species
c) Marine and coastal	X		Conservation of local fish species
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Conservation of range plants like Artemisia and Salsola species
e) Forest	X		Protection of local forest tree species
f) Mountain	X		Protection of mountain species.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
This objective was mentioned in the NBSAP in general terms, the application is still on the starting point.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
The national stakeholders' policy and especially the Ministry of Agriculture is occupied with the production of small nursery plants of the original forest trees species and using them in the rehabilitation of degraded areas and reforestation of bare slopes in protection areas. Many rangeland protected areas were declared and rangelands were rehabilitated. The Ministry of Agriculture and ACSAD are working on the propagation and breeding of some local races of animals such as sheep,			

goats, and camels.

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

1. Maintenance of the state and numbers of land races and their use.
 2. Increase of the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and local animals, especially those of economic importance.
 3. Monitoring the trend of genetic diversity of plants, animals and fish of economic importance.
- Though these criteria are used in monitoring, this target is still in the starting stage for most species.

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

1. Introduction of a few alien varieties and their expansion which resulted in the degradation of land races and local varieties, especially those with high economic production.
2. Lack of financial resources to carry out research and to breed these land races or to support farmers when they shift to depend on these land races.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box VIII .

Goal 4	Promote sustainable use and consumption.		
Target 4.1	Biodiversity-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed, and production areas managed consistent with the conservation of biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
This target concerns local population who depend on the forest. We are trying to establish all the conditions necessary to these people to make use of biodiversity components in a sustainable manner. It is still necessary to bridge these activities with national law in different sectors.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	

d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		Updating forestry law which gave the right to local population to make use of forest resources. In the updated version these rights were taken in consideration.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
All measures which were taken aim at the realization of this target directly or indirectly for sustainable use of biological resources but the application of this target is not yet up to the aspired level.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
The updating of laws (hunting law, water animals protection law, forest law...) or the issue of new laws like the control of commercialization of threatened species, the declaration of protected areas and the up to date dealing with living species, especially by local population around protected areas will serve directly or indirectly the sustainable use of biological resources. Syria started a small grants project financed by GEF through NGOs to support local population by creating new opportunities for work and alternative livelihood to protect biodiversity and its sustainable use.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
New adopted criteria according to international standards are being formulated.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of public awareness, but there is a general trend in the concerned ministries to support this concept of sustainability as we mentioned in target 4.1-4. 2. Lack of sufficient financial resources to alleviate poverty and to improve living standards of the people living around biodiversity sites. 3. Lack of coordination amongst stakeholders. 			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box IX.

Target 4.2	Unsustainable consumption, of biological resources, or that impacts upon biodiversity, reduced
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	
a) No	

b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
There is a similar target in the NBSAP.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water	X		Stop over fishing and the destruction of habitats.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Stop over fishing and decrease the destruction of habitats.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		Stop over hunting and decrease the destruction of habitat.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
There is an attempt to decrease the exploitation of biological resources in an unsustainable way in forests, rangeland and water through the updating of hunting law and fishing law. We are working to increase public awareness of hunters and fishers to adopt these laws. Some of the new laws are in harmony with international laws such as the exchange of genetic resources for research aims. Other laws which concern the conservation of natural resources are essential for the sustainability of biodiversity such as the conservation of the water resources.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Target No. 4.1 and 4.2 are nearly the same and the measures are also the same.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
We are working on establishing national criteria according to international criteria.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
We repeat the challenges of the last target 4.1. Meaning that when unsustainable use of biological resources is decreased, sustainable use is encouraged.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of public awareness of sustainability. But there is a general tendency in the concerned ministries to support this concept as we mentioned in target 4.1-4 as mentioned earlier. 2. Lack of financial resources to alleviate poverty and improve living conditions of local people around the sites of biodiversity. 			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box X.

Target 4.3		No species of wild flora or fauna endangered by international trade	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This target was mentioned in NBSAP and accordingly Syria ratified the Protocol of Trading with Threatened Plant and Animal Species (CITES).			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		This concerns the protocol of CITES.
b) Inland water	X		This concerns the protocol of CITES.
c) Marine and coastal	X		This concerns the protocol of CITES.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		This concerns the protocol of CITES.
e) Forest	X		This concerns the protocol of CITES.
f) Mountain	X		This concerns the protocol of CITES.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
We are preparing for a national law to apply this protocol. There is a national committee working on the preparation of this law. The draft is already ready.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Through the execution of CITES the following activities were carried out :			
- This Protocol was ratified according to a presidential decree No 64 date 22/12/2002.			

- Control of import and export of live animals and the issue of special permits according to the Protocol.
- Coordination with national stakeholders such as the Ministry of Interior to control the shops selling live or stuffed animals and prohibiting these activities.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Finance, the Directorate of Customs to control all import and export permits.
- A special scientific committee was nominated to help when necessary to protect national species from such trading.
- Training a national team from different national stakeholders (customs, Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, General Commission for Environmental Affairs). Establishment of special fauna offices in each border post including staff from the General Commission who are trained in the application of the Protocol.
- Preparation and distribution of a national law concerning this Protocol.

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

1. The trend of species and genera which are threatened,
2. The degree of threat according to scientific studies and expertise opinion.
3. Decrease of illegal trading.

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

Since Syria ratified recently the Protocol, there are some difficulties :

- Lack of trained staff.
- Lack of public awareness of the importance of fauna protection.
- Lack of complete understanding of those who are trading illegally.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

CITES is applied on threatened species in all cases which are mentioned in 4.3-2. It is necessary to compile special lists of threatened species in all these domains.

Box XI .

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.		
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This target is included under secondary titles in the NBSAP.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details

a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water	X		Protection of wetland and water resources and the decrease of pollution. The protection of water resources from pollution.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Declaration of coastal and marine protected areas and the establishment of a network of these protected areas along the Syrian coast.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Declaration of more protected areas in arid lands.
e) Forest	X		More protected areas, alleviation of forest fires, hazardous cutting, grazing and other human activities.
f) Mountain	X		More protection areas and rehabilitation with local plant trees and shrubs.
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 22 protected areas pertaining to different ecosystems have been declared beside the rangeland range land protected areas. 2) Syria is working through Med plan to elaborate an integrated plan for the whole Syrian coast protection. 3) Syria has an integral plan on desertification control. 4) Syria began applying EIA for all developmental projects, and especially those near natural habitats. 			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
The general trend is to protect natural habitats and decreasing negative impacts of human activities whether through use or pollution.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increasing protected site numbers. 2) Safe and healthy ecosystems. 3) Marine productivity through proper methods of fishing. 4) Number of rehabilitated sites. 			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lack of trained staff to manage protected sites. 2) Few good development projects which do not harm the environment. 3) Unwilling users to apply environmental criteria and conditions. 4) Lack of public awareness, especially local people living around nature sites. 			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XII.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.		
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This target is included in the NBSAP and in the Strategy of marine biodiversity protection. But it did not take its proper importance as a result of more urgent issues and only recently awareness of the danger of alien species to local biodiversity was realized.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		A national plan on marine biodiversity was elaborated to limit the impact of alien species on marine biodiversity.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		The introduced species are replaced with indigenous ones.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
No information			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
No available data.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

No national indicators yet.

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

- 1) This target is not included in the priorities.
- 2) No detailed scientific studies on alien species at national level and their impact on the local environment.
- 3) Lack of trained staff.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIII .

Target 6.2	Management plans in place for major alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This target was included in the NBSAP and in the National Strategy for the protection of marine biodiversity. It did not take its priority as a result of more urgent issues. The dangers of alien species on national biodiversity was only realized recently, no measures have been taken.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		In the National Strategy and Plan for the protection of marine biodiversity a national plan was elaborated to limit the impact of alien species on marine biodiversity.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		There is a national program to replace alien species with indigenous material.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
There are no sectoral programs for this target up till now, except the protection of marine biodiversity which did not start yet. The plan is included in the strategy and action plan.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
No available data.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
No national indicators are adopted.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
No priority for this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
No available scientific studies on alien species at national level and their impact on the environment.	

Box XIV.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.		
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
There are no heavy industries in Syria which may affect the climate.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	

f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
One of the main objective of Syria's Environmental Plan is to preserve the safety of air from pollutants as much as possible.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Syria ratified the Convention on Climate Change in 1996, and signed the Ozone Protocol in 1989. Syria is applying the articles of these international agreements. A special project on capacity assessment started recently.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
No special indicators for this target. The general indicators of healthy ecosystems are adopted for the safety of biodiversity in general.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XV.

Target 7.2	Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
One of the targets of National Strategy of Environment is the alleviation of all kinds of pollution including water bodies and wetlands and their biodiversity.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details

a) Agricultural	X		Start of biological integrated control of pests and diseases of crops. Wise use of fertilizers and support of organic agriculture.
b) Inland water	X		Decrease of pollutants coming from watersheds of rivers, saline lakes and the establishment of treatment stations of sewage water.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Decrease of pollutants disposal in sea water.
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest	X		Law prohibit the establishment of any industrial establishment (rock mining, garbage disposal, etc.)
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
Marine pollution in Syria is much less than in industrial countries, but the general trend is to decrease pollution, especially on different ecosystems. Syria started to apply EIA on all tourism and other development projects.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Syrian Environmental law No 501 was issued on 08/07/2002. Some of its articles define the fines for those who cause pollution and the responsibility to alleviate the cause and effects. This law limits the effects on biodiversity. 2) The Ministry of Irrigation works on the prevention of water or decreasing its effects as much as possible. 3) General organization for water protection was created in 2003. 4) All governorates in Syria (14) are equipped with vehicle labs to monitor pollution and define its sources in air and water. This will serve the safety of biodiversity. 			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
The safety of physical environment and low degree of pollution.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No available funds to alleviate pollution or decrease its effects in sites which are rich in biodiversity. 2) Attention given to alleviating pollution is more concentrated on populated areas and cities. These are social priorities. 3) Lack of public awareness. 4) Lack of law enforcement and soft application. 			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XVI .

Goal 8	Maintain capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services and support livelihoods.		
Target 8.1	Capacity of ecosystems to deliver goods and services maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
This target was mentioned in the NBSAP under the objective of sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity components.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural			
b) Inland water	X		Updating of fishing laws in inland waters to assure sustainability of fish resources.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Updating fishing laws and regulations in sea to serve fish resource sustainability.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Updating laws related to grazing and use of the Badia for this aim.
e) Forest	X		Updating laws and regulations which serve the protection of the forest and regulate traditional use of forest products by local population around the forest.
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
The target is included, but the application is not done yet.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
There is more tendency to support this concept by the decision makes and local population users to create alternative income resources such as ecotourism and projects which are friendly to			

biodiversity.

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

- 1) The return of fish production in fresh water and sea to its earlier levels.
- 2) The revival of local ecosystems to its earlier flourishing state.

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

- 1) Lack of awareness and knowledge of local population for the need of sustainability.
- 2) Capital return of developmental sustainable project is slow.
- 3) Lack of national expertise in this field.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XVII.

Target 8.2	Biological resources that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, especially of poor people maintained		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This target was included in the NBSAP under different names and articles as well as in agricultural strategies and policies.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		The use of medicinal plants and the genetic resources of plants and animals.
b) Inland water	X		Participation of local communities in protected areas management and the use of its resources.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Participation of local communities in protected areas management and the use of its resources.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Local population make use of natural resources in the Badia and the use of ecotourism.
e) Forest	X		Participation of local communities in the management of protected areas and the use of forest products as in people forest.
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and			

strategies?	
a) No	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
This target is included but partially or in some sites only.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>Training and public awareness of farmers and local population are included in protected area projects like SYR97 G634 on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management. This concerns the management of three protected areas (Abu Qubeis, Frunluq and Jabal Abdel Aziz). The farmers living around each protected area will be trained to use some nature products in the manufacture of food products and straw useful items. This will support the livelihood income of these people. The project of small grants will help the local population also to find alternative income. Following are some examples of projects :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The project of protection and development of fish resources in Delha Lake near Raqqa will help local population and local cooperatives to improve their living standards. 2) Ecotourism and diving projects near Arwad Island will help also local people to improve their living standards. 3) The establishment of environmental gardens in different parts of Syria. 	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
National indicators were not defined but they will be just like international indicators such as the improvement of population's life standard and health in poor communities.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Limited financial resources do not allow coverage of all sites where local people depend on nature resources in their living. 2) Limited public awareness. 3) Limited confidence in alternative livelihood means offer to local people. 4) Fear of local people that they will lose their traditional rights. 	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
The difference between targets 8-1 and 8-2 is small and they are inseparable because when biological ecosystems afford the products and means for local people this means they afford sustainable living, food security and health care.	

Box XVIII.

Goal 9	Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities.
Target 9.1	Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	

a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
This target is mentioned in the NBSAP where it encourages the preservation of knowledge and practices of local communities especially concerning dealing with biological resources. Cultural and tourist policies call for social and cultural diversity.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Preservation of traditional agricultural and preservation of traditional crops and the breeding of animals.
b) Inland water	X		Prohibition of modern destructive fishing methods and the return to traditional methods.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Prohibition of destructive hunting and fishing methods and the return to traditional methods.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Preservation of traditional grazing systems in the Badia and prohibition of plowing.
e) Forest	X		Encouraging traditional ways of dealing with forest products.
f) Mountain			
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
This target is very much accepted in some sectors. The preservation of traditional knowledge and practices support development in some sectors like tourism, but the invasion of modern information all over the globe affect negatively the social and cultural diversity of local populations.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
1- There is a prohibition of destructive ways of fishing.			
2- The Ministry of Agriculture issued laws and regulations which prohibit the cultivation of the Badiya to preserve range lands and the traditional way of grazing animals.			
3- Small grants project supports this orientation through NGOs and local population.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
We started recently, no clear indicators are used.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
1) Limited financial support to realize this target completely and at a large national scale.			

- 2) Limited public awareness of the importance of this target in the future.
- 3) Priorities of development which limits the preservation of traditional ways of dealing with biological resources.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

This target is achieved in some sites:

- 1- Maar Moussa Protected Area project.
- 2- Earth Project near Homs.
- 3- Small Grants Project in Raqqa, Deir Ezzor and Souweida. This activity will soon start in Lataquia and Tartous.

This will help the protection of biodiversity and socio- economic diversity.

Box XIX.

Target 9.2	Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit sharing		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
There is a general tendency to reach this target. There is a lot of similarity between the answers of this question and the last target 9-1, in addition to meeting the rights of local population. These rights are met wherever local communities where natural resources are the main source of living for local population.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		This orientation started during Agro-biodiversity project when the rights of local communities were considered in field sites (Sweida, Latke).
b) Inland water	X		Prohibition of destructive ways of fishing and returning to traditional methods.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Prohibition of destructive ways of fishing and returning to traditional methods.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Preservation of the rights of local Bedouins to graze the animals in the Badia, even in rangeland protected area under management.
e) Forest	X		Updating forest law and preserving the rights of local population to make use of forest products.
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			

b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
The idea of preserving the rights of local communities is old but is taken into consideration in some sectors : the Conservation of Agro biodiversity Project which was carried out in two sites rich in genetic resources of some crops and forage crops. Local communities were trained and got an upgrading in awareness of the value of genetic resources.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
There is a growing tendency to reach this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
No national indicators since it is a new concept. We started recently working on this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The growing population forces the use of modern imported methods and leading traditional methods to be able to feed their families. 2) Limited income of local people. 3) Methods of the use of natural resources. 	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.	
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?		
a) No		
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		
Please provide details below.		
Syria is a member of the International Agreement on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (FAO) since 2004. We started preparing a special law for the transfer of genetic material. The Agricultural Research Commission is responsible for this activity. They are cooperating with other national partners in this regard.		
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).		

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	Though there is no target or definite program of work, the mentioned legislation will be a start to put definite national targets.
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
This target was included in the agricultural policies and we will start controlling the transfer of genetic material after the related law is effective.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
This target is met partly in agricultural policies and conservation of biodiversity policy. This will lead to the control of the transport of genetic samples after the approval of the new legislation concerning this point. Applying CITES will help directly or indirectly in the import and export of endangered species.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
No national indicators but we expect to control of any illegal export or import of genetic resources.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
There is no trained national staff available at different checkpoints (custom and police) to carry out this control.			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Box XXI .

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?	

a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
This target is being followed. Syria began to participate in the open meeting for benefit sharing which is part of CBD and we will carry out the proposals after being approved by the Conference of the Parties.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
This target is in the NBSAP but execution did not start.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
There is no national legislation for benefit sharing, but Syria is preparing a national law on the transfer of gene resources for the future. The International Agreement and the positive acceptance of it by Syria will achieve this target. The matter is still under discussion. The general orientation is positive.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
No indicator for this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lack of appropriate legislation. 2) Lack of national specialties. 3) Lack of public awareness of the importance of this target. 			

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XXII.

Goal 11	Parties have improved financial, human, scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention.		
Target 11.1	New and additional financial resources are transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with Article 20		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Syria has ratified all international as well as regional conventions related to biodiversity conservation. It is anticipated through GEF and international organizations and programs concerned about biodiversity to improve the financial resources necessary for the fulfillment of this CBD. Syria is increasing the budgets of forestry biodiversity through the ministries and other institutions.</p>			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		Protection of agro biodiversity, land races and varieties.
b) Inland water	X		
c) Marine and coastal	X		
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		
e) Forest	X		
f) Mountain	X		
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Syria supports financially as well as in kind the carrying out of several projects which were financed by international and regional donors through the secretariat of CBD, from GEF or other donors. These</p>			

projects are :

- 1) Cedar Protected Area financed through the World Bank by GEF.
- 2) Project of Biodiversity Conservation of three protected areas (Jabal Abdel Azizm Abu Qubays and Frunluq) financed by GEF through UNDP.
- 3) Talila Protected Area financed by FAO.
- 4) Agro biodiversity Project financed by GEF through UNDP.
- 5) Preparation of the Country Study financed by GEF through UNDP.
- 6) Preparation of the NBSAP financed by GEF through UNDP.
- 7) Preparation of a National Institutional Framework for Biosafety.
- 8) Preparation of a National Strategy for the Protection of Sea Biodiversity financed by UNDP through Med plan.
- 9) Training of national staff working on the management of some protected areas.
- 10) Public awareness campaign financed by different institutions.

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

In addition to many projects which were carried out and the application for international financial support from donors, other projects were prepared and asked for financial support :

- 1) A regional project for the Protection of Soaring Birds prepared in cooperation with Bird International.
- 2) Carry out of four working plans for the Protection of Syrian Coastal Biodiversity which were prepared through the National Strategy for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity.
- 3) The preparation of plans of protection for some important species like the Northern Bald Ibis in cooperation with the Afro-Asian Water Migrating Birds Agreement.
- 4) Training technical staff who are working on protection, monitoring and research through small financed projects.
- 5) Public awareness campaigns.

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

More projects financed by international donors and more national support.

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

Same challenges met with the NBSAP.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

In addition to working to secure public financing from international donors to execute the convention, Syria is allotting part of a national annual budget to support protection project and the establishment of protected areas and the rehabilitation of national ecosystems, especially forest sites using local plant material.

Box XXIII.

Target 11.2	Technology is transferred to developing country Parties, to allow for the effective implementation of their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with its Article 20, paragraph 4		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target		X	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
The same answers as in 11.1. There are many national experts whom we can depend on in studies and research if financial support is available.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
This target is in the NBSAP under International Cooperation.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
National staff are being trained to prepare project documents and the execution of CBD articles. New concepts and technology are transferred gradually.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)

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

Box XXIV.

Target 1. A widely accessible working list of known plant species, as a step towards a complete world flora.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
This target needs a new survey of the national flora in literature as well as in the field and the compilation of a national databank to be used in achieving this target.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Yes in the NBSAP under the item of Biological Research Development.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
We have species lists which are the result of national and international individual research. We compiled all of this during the National Country Study but it was not put in a databank. We need to update the information and compile it in a national databank including all components of Syrian biodiversity.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	

We are at the first stage of preparing a project to cover this gap. Then it will be presented to international donors with the aim of compiling complete checklists of species and the establishment of a national herbarium.

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

We have already a databank but we need to compile the data concerning each species in it and to update the data as much as possible.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

- 1) No available funds.
- 2) No available infrastructure like a national museum or national center.
- 3) Lack of coordination between different partners.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXV.

Target 2. A preliminary assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, at national, regional and international levels.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

The national target is to compile the state of all important species and to have a databank to refer to be able to follow up monitoring later on.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

This target is included in the NBSAP as well as in the research plans of the Ministry of Higher Education.

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

We are still at the stage of ideas and proposals. Only a few national researchers have achieved some results. These are mostly postgraduate studies in some protected areas.

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

We are preparing for a national project to reach this target. It will be sent to international donors for financial and technical support. The project will include the establishment of a National herbarium.

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

We have not started yet.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

- 1) Lack of financial resources.
- 2) Lack of infrastructures (national museum or national center to serve this aim). A national institute to coordinate and lead these activities.
- 3) Lack of coordination.

VII) Any other relevant information

There are some scientific institutions which are willing to accommodate the national herbarium and databank but we need an integrated infrastructure (Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, General Commission for Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Higher Education, Faculties of Sciences and Universities, General Commission for Agricultural Research).

Box XXVI.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

It is included in the NBSAP.

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

The target is included but no work on the ground.

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

V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)
There is no progress in reaching this target.
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It is not considered as a national priority. Only specialists realize its importance. 2) The national activities are not institutional.
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVII.

Target 4. At least ten percent of each of the world's ecological regions effectively conserved.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
This target is mentioned before in target 1 of the current report.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

We are working on the objective of protecting 10% of national ecosystems. The NBSAP aimed at establishing a network of protected areas but did not define the percentage mentioned in the global target. We have protected 1.27% of the total area of Syria. We expect to achieve the target of 10% at a medium term of the NBSAP.

- 1) The concept of nature protection is very recent in Syria. The components of biodiversity are still exposed to many threats as a result of human activities out of increasing needs. The trend of the general policy is to stop degradation and to protect biodiversity and the environment in general.
- 2) 22 nature protected area in different ecosystems :
 - 4 in wetlands
 - 1 wildlife in the Badia
 - 1 special area for the Northern Bald Ibis
 - 3 coastal areas
 - 13 forest areas

Many other protected areas are proposed.

- 3) This target was not literally mentioned in the NBSAP, but we are working to protect all plant diversity sites.

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

- 1) Declaration of nature protected areas
- 2) Number of protected areas representing different national ecosystems.

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

There are many protection projects, one of them concerns the establishment of three protected areas (Jabal Abdel Aziz, Abu Qubeis and Frunloq). This project is financed by GEF. Other small and medium projects of protection started or will start soon.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

- 1) Lack of financial resources.
- 2) Lack of trained staff.
- 3) Only forest protection was valid ten years ago.
- 4) Lack of public awareness.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXVIII.

Target 5. Protection of fifty percent of the most important areas for plant diversity assured.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
This target was not included in the NBSAP.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
This target was not included literally in the NBSAP, but we are trying to protect as much as possible the biodiversity rich sites.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
This target was not included in the NBSAP, but we are working on the protection of natural vegetation as much as possible.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXIX.

Target 6. At least thirty percent of production lands managed consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
This item was not included in the NBSAP.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
This target was not included in the NBSAP, but we are trying to protect as many main vegetation types as possible.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXX.

Target 7. Sixty percent of the world's threatened species conserved <i>In-situ</i>.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
This target was not exactly included in the NBSAP, but working on the protection of threatened and endangered species is limited to available funds.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
This target was not exactly included in the NBSAP but the protection of endangered species is proportional to available funds.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXI.

Target 8. Sixty percent of threatened plant species in accessible <i>Ex-situ</i> collections, preferably in the country of origin, and 10 percent of them included in recovery and restoration programmes.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
This target was not exactly included in the NBSAP, but the protection of endangered species is proportional to available funds. Some of these species are protected <i>ex situ</i> in live collections or in genebanks.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
This target was not exactly included in the NBSAP, but the protection of endangered species is proportional to available funds. Some of these species are protected <i>ex situ</i> in live collections or in gene-banks. There are live collections of fruit trees and medicinal plants in agricultural research sites. There are gene-banks of wild cereals which are regenerated in the open nature each year.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In agricultural sector, namely in SYR 97634 project extensive areas were rehabilitated by the use of range plants and the cultivation of wild relatives of cereals, legumes and wild fruit trees. These areas are considered as protected areas where no grazing or overuse is allowed by the General Commission of Agricultural Research. - A seed bank with three cooling units preserves different genetic resources of field crops. - In Aleppo, ICARDA and IPIGRI have a common huge gene bank of genetic resources of field crops. - Two important live collections of arid fruit trees are managed by ACSAD in Syria. - A few nurseries were established for the propagation of endangered and threatened species of crop plants. 	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXII.

Target 9. Seventy percent of the genetic diversity of crops and other major socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, and associated indigenous and local knowledge maintained.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
This target was not exactly included in the NBSAP, but national efforts to achieve this objective are going on. Genetic diversity of crops and other economic plants is preserved as much possible through the establishment of gene banks and live collections so that all important species and their wild relatives are conserved.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
1) General Commission for Agricultural Research increase the number of live collections.	
2) A general survey of national agricultural cover is being carried to see the role of wild relatives in agriculture and the best way for conservation.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIII.

Target 10. Management plans in place for at least 100 major alien species that threaten plants, plant communities and associated habitats and ecosystems.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
We do not deal with alien species in such way and there is no national plan for monitoring alien species and their impact. This may come out as a result of intensive field surveys.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
This target is included in a general way in the NBSAP. But we are controlling the entry of alien species through the customs.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
This target is included in the NBSAP in a general way. All imported living species need a special permission, especially GMO. The Ministry of Agriculture encourages the use of local genetic resources in agriculture through field days and extension services with the explanation about their importance in the improvement of modern varieties. In a few cases the Ministry gave incentives to encourage the farmers to replace modern varieties with local adapted species of crops.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Syria joined recently the FARO Genetic Resources Agreement. 2) Working on a special national law on the transfer of plant genetic resources and GO. 3) Cooperation with other partners on the application of Cartagena Protocol. 	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lack of public awareness. 2) Lack of sufficient financial and technical facilities and lack of trained staff for the control of alien species. 	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIV.

Target 11. No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syria notified CITES through the legislation n° 64 dated 22/12/2002. - We started the control of import and export of endangered species by the Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas in the Ministry of Environment. 	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
The control of alien species is included in the NBSAP.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p>We are starting the control of import and export of wild species. We aim at a complete control of the endangered wild species commercialization. A special permission from the Directorate of Biodiversity is necessary to import or export live plants and animals. For this aim we are preparing the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We are preparing regulations of import and export of endangered species (CITES) with other national partners like the Ministry of Finance and the Customs Directorate to control the import and export from different border checkpoints, and with the Ministry of Interior to control shops selling such species. The aim is to stop commercialization of endangered species whether live or stuffed. 2) Training a national team from different national partners. 3) Nominating a scientific committee to advice when needed. 4) Establishing wildlife offices at border points. 5) Preparation of a special law for the application of CITES. The aim is to control all import and export of endangered species, but we are still at the starting point. <p>The control of importing and exporting wild plants will start soon and we are planning to have a complete control of the import and export of endangered species.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We are preparing now a special legislation to apply CITES. - A special wildlife office was created in each border point entry with staff from the General Organization of Environmental Affairs. 	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

We started to issue CITES registration for all species mentioned in the CITES' annexes which are imported with the aim to be exported later on.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

- 1) Convincing the decision makers to be a member of CITES.
- 2) Only recently has Syria become a member of CITES.
- 3) Lack of awareness of merchants.
- 4) Lack of trained teams to apply CITES.

Some of these difficulties were not solved but we are working on them.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXV.

Target 12. Thirty percent of plant-based products derived from sources that are sustainably managed.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

Sustainability is new to us but we are trying to adopt it and extend it to all aspects.

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

a) Yes

b) No

X

Please specify

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

There are a few activities which meet this target but no sign of reaching 30%.

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

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

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
1) Limited financial and technical resources. 2) Lack of a trained team. 3) Lack of public participation. 4) Lack of necessary studies for economic feasibility.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
This target was included in the NBSAP.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
In addition to the NBSAP this target is mentioned in some legislations like Forestry Law and in agricultural policies. At present all new laws take the NBSAP in consideration. We are working on public awareness of the value of natural resources (crops, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, forestry) and the importance of these in economic development and production.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
1) Protected areas declarations. 2) Control of commercialization. 3) Encouraging local populations to preserve their positive traditions of nature conservation and improving negative practices.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

Achieving this target is one of the objectives of the concerned parties like the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. We started dealing with local population problems in a participatory way in the protection and management of these resources as well as the conservation of traditional methods.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

- 1) This target is not a priority of government partners except the Commission of Agricultural Research. Action was concentrated on research not on the application.
- 2) Local populations did not like the interference of other parties in their way of dealing with natural resources.

VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXVII .

Target 14. The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, educational and public-awareness programmes.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

This target was mentioned in the NBSAP. It is included in the programs of different national stakeholders. The NBSAP was approved by them and then adopted by the Supreme Council of Environmental Affairs.

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

a) Yes

X

b) No

Please specify

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

This target is adopted by the Ministry of Education and Information as well as people organizations and NGOs.

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

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

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Ministry of Education has included concepts on the importance of plants and the necessity for conservation and how to protect in the programs of basic school education. 2) Television has prepared special programs on the importance of living organisms and especially plants. 3) Read and heard media publish every day special programs on plants and endangered living organisms especially forests and reforested areas. 4) The post service published a series of stamps on the importance of plants especially endangered species. 5) A special extension directorate carries out awareness programs for farmers on plants, how to protect and deal with them.
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Recent adoption of environmental concepts. 2) Recent consideration of all wild plants are part of the natural ecosystem. Earlier only economic plants were considered important. 3) Financial resources are limited to carry out public awareness campaign.
VII) Any other relevant information

Box XXXVIII.

Target 15. The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities in plant conservation increased, according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
There is a national orientation towards :	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Establishment of a national herbarium. 2) Establishment of botanical gardens. 3) Updating of vegetation data. 	
All these activities necessitate training of all those working in these domains.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

Graduate students are more than enough for the fulfillment of this target. The number of graduate students which are specialized in botany or living organisms and agriculture is increasing. All those who are employed are trained on job also on biodiversity conservation and plants.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
1) Increase national and international training of the staff responsible for biodiversity. 2) Recognize the role of NGOs in biodiversity conservation and plants conservation and protection.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
1) Many training courses were carried out in ministries and other national institutes. 2) A few training courses were carried out by national projects financed by international donors such as : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agro biodiversity Project. - Cedar Protected Area Project. - Fishing Forest Fires Project in participation with the local farmers. 	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
1) Lack of financial resources. 2) Lack of technical trained staff.	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXIX.

Target 16. Networks for plant conservation activities established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
No national networks were established, but an exchange of information exists among national stakeholders. The objective to establish a network of protected areas in the NBSAP will help to protect plants. There is a general tendency to establish an Arab gene bank through the Arab Council of Arab Environment ministers.	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	

b) No	
Please specify	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) There is a continuous correspondence and meetings to activate pan Arab work on gene banks and continuous cooperation to continue the work achieved on the agro biodiversity project. 2) Agro biodiversity project was terminated recently in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the West bank. 3) There are no networks working on plant conservation, only a few activities are carried by ACSAD and ICARDA at regional and international levels. 	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
There is a national tendency to establish a national herbarium and databank containing information on national plant species.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with ICARDA, carried out collecting surveys for the conservation of seed and herbarium samples of crop genetic resources. - There is no clear evidence of creating networks concerning the conservation of plants. 	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Limited financial resources. 2) International donors do not give information in a transparent way on national studies. There is no will to establish such networks. 	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XL.

<p>Please elaborate below on the implementation of this strategy specifically focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) outcomes and impacts of actions taken; b) contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention; c) contribution to progress towards the 2010 target; d) progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans; e) contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; f) constraints encountered in implementation.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) No information. b) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan started in about 70% of its objectives. We did not reach the expected application. The activities carried out in this regard include the ratification of NBSAP and the following :

- 1- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- 2- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- 3- Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR).
- 4- African-Eurasian Migratory Water-Birds Agreement (AEWA).
- 5- Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS).
- 6- Cartagena Protocol of Bio-Safety.
- 7- Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
- 8- International Convention on Combat of the Desertification.
- 9- Plant Genetic Resources Agreement of FAO which serves biodiversity indirectly.
- 10- On Principle Agreement of Climate Change.
- 11- Med plan.
- 12- Basel Agreement on the transport of dangerous garbage.
- 13- Environmental Law No. 50 which includes some articles concerning Protected Areas, and Protection of Biodiversity components.
- 14- A law concerning the execution of the Convention for International Trade on Threatened animals and Plants is being enacted.
- 15- Decrees were issued on the Declaration of 22 protected areas which represent different ecosystems.

The most important achievements are :

- 1) Preparation of the National Country Study on Biodiversity in the Syrian Arab Republic (in Arabic in 1998 and in English in 2000).
- 2) Preparation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan which was approved by the Syrian Supreme Council of Environment Protection on May 13th, 2002.
- 3) Preparation of Strategy and Action Plan for Marine Biodiversity.
- 4) Preparation of Protected Areas Conditions in Syria based on the IUCN and International criteria for protected areas taking into consideration the national needs and legislations.

Field achievements are the following :

- 1) Establishment of the Cedar Fir protected area (infrastructure, capacity building of the technical staff). This project was supported by GEF-World Bank.
 - 2) A new project started recently for the establishment of three protected areas which were declared earlier (Jabal Abdel Aziz, Frunluq and Abu Qubais).
- c) Concerning the global target of 2010 we have achieved a few stages in the direction of decreasing the extinction of plant and animal species at national level. We are working on the conservation of migratory birds and other animals which will serve the protection of these species at international level. There is some work done on the reintroduction of threatened animals and plants such as :
- Reintroduction of Oryx and gazelle in some protected areas to be released in range lands.
 - Rehabilitation of Junipers, Pistachio, Cedar and Abies species which are propagated in nurseries and planted in their original habitats.
- d) There is satisfactory progress in the execution of the NBSAP :
- 1) Many protected areas were declared in different ecosystems as mentioned before.
 - 2) The protection of some species and reintroduction in their natural habitats.
 - 3) The national decision makers give a priority to biodiversity protection better than before.
 - 4) The ministry of Agriculture established special biodiversity offices in each of the governorates of Syria (14).
 - 5) The Ministry of Education and Information are working on the spread of public awareness of the

importance of biodiversity and its sustainable use.

- 6) The Ministry of Higher Education gives priority to all scientific research related to biodiversity and encourages the students to make their Master and PhD research on such specialties as taxonomy and ecology.
 - 7) The Ministry of Tourism started working on ecotourism and establishing a relation with historical and recreational tourism.
 - 8) A presidential decree was issued to establish a general commission on biotechnology in the Ministry of Higher Education. And the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment is establishing an institutional framework for biosafety.
 - 9) The Ministry of Environment is cooperating with other national stakeholders to carry out field projects financed by GEF and other international donors in biodiversity rich sites.
 - 10) Syria cooperates with different agencies and organizations in the execution of field projects and capacity building.
 - 11) A small grant project started in Syria which was financed by GEF.
- e) The challenges which were met during the execution are decreasing but we can summarize them as follows :
- 1) Syria could not give biodiversity conservation better priority as a result of security and economic needs.
 - 2) Lack of financial funds to execute the NBSAP.
 - 3) Lack of trained staff in different parts of Syria to manage the protected areas according to international standards.
 - 4) Lack of public awareness.

Ecosystem Approach

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

3. ?¹ Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but application is under consideration	
c) Yes, some aspects are being applied	
d) Yes, substantially implemented	

4. ? Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but development is under consideration	
c) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying some principles of the ecosystem approach	
d) Yes, practical expressions have been developed for applying most principles of the ecosystem approach	

5. Is your country strengthening capacities for the application of the ecosystem approach, and providing technical and financial support for capacity-building to apply the ecosystem approach? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, within the country	
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

6. ? Has your country promoted regional cooperation in applying the ecosystem approach across national borders? (decision V/6)	
a) No	
b) Yes, informal cooperation (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, formal cooperation (please provide details below)	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

9. ? Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
d) Yes, regional and/or subregional cooperation (please give details below)	
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	
Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>There is cooperation with Lebanon in the establishment of border protected areas in the following sites :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Juniperus excelsa</i> protected area on the Ant Lebanon. • Hamidiye Coastal protected area. <p>A special Agro-biodiversity conservation project was carried out with GEF grant in four neighboring countries: Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and West Bank by ICARDA.</p> <p>There is a proposal to create a protected area in Yarmouk valley in cooperation with Jordan.</p>	

10. Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 A)	
a) No	
b) No, but consultations are under way	
c) Yes, some mechanisms and networks have been established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms have been strengthened (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on development of regional, subregional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention.	
<p>There are several memoranda of understanding with some Arab countries on the exchange of expertise and cooperation. Some of these include biodiversity and protected areas. These activities are form a kind of networking.</p>	

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

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

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

The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment is the national coordinating body for the policies and programs at national level. It is responsible for the execution of all conventions related to biodiversity which were ratified by Syria.

A major project on the evaluation of national capacities and coordination between the conventions on biodiversity, climate change, Desertification Control is being carried out at present in Syria.

Box XLI.

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

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

Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use

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

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

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

All strategies, action plans and programs are limited to the NBSAP. We try to apply what we can according to national priorities either directly or indirectly, but we still in the starting stage.

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

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

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

The National Strategy and Action Plan on Biodiversity conservation included 18 objectives and was resumed in the begin of this report. These are:

1. Sustainable economic and social development through the sustainable use of biological resources.
2. Protection of biodiversity in the forests, range and marginal lands.
3. Protection and wise management of water bodies with their flora and fauna.
4. Rehabilitation of damaged sites and reintroduction of threatened species.
5. Protection of shore habitats and sea biodiversity.
- 6.
7. Establishment of a network of different protected areas to cover all major ecosystems of Syria.
8. Protection and propagation of local plant and animal species of economic importance.
9. Improvement of agrosystems to conform with safe environment, sustainable use and rehabilitation of desert and degraded land.
10. Protection and conservation of biological resources in the Badia.
11. Protection and conservation of biological resources in the forests and reforested areas to protect the soil, slope and water courses from erosion.
12. Conservation of plant and animal genetic resources.

13. Updating legislation and the establishment of a special institution for the management of Biodiversity.
14. Support scientific research on Biodiversity.
15. Support of biotechnology and genetic engineering research.
16. Application of environmental education at different level and upgrading of public awareness on the importance of biological resources and their sustainable use.
17. Cooperation at regional and international levels in environmental affairs and biodiversity and all related agreements and the use of bilateral and multilateral agreements for the protection of biodiversity for coming generations.

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

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

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

There are objective and plans in the NBSAP, most of them are considered as priority actions.

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

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

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

The sustainable use is included in the sectoral plans and programs of forestry and agriculture.

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

a) Yes	X
b) No	

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

(a) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species	The NBSAP includes a target to rehabilitate endangered species and we are applying this on the Northern Bald Ibis.
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	Some important sites for migratory species were declared as protected areas, others are proposed such as that of Bald Ibis.
(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or	There are no major obstacles for migratory

obstacles to migration	species, but we are decreasing the dangers of hunting and habitat destruction.
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	There are a few studies and field surveys to monitor migrating birds during the last three years in cooperation with Birdlife International.
(e) Transboundary movement	We are preparing for a monitoring program of migratory birds.
II) If NO, please briefly indicate below	
(a) The extent to which your country addresses migratory species at national level	
(b) Cooperation with other Range States since 2000	

Biodiversity and Climate Change

17. Has your country implemented projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but some projects or programs are under development	X
c) Yes, some projects have been implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the projects aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.	
<p>1- There are no special projects on climate change, but Syria has worked on the program of ozone layer protection through the prohibition of the use of ozone destructing chemicals.</p> <p>2- Some of biodiversity projects serve in decreasing the effects of climate change such as the protection of forests and increasing the reforested areas.</p> <p>3- A project on the assessment of national capacities of three conventions biodiversity, climate change and desertification started in 2005. It is financed by GEF and executed by UNDP.</p>	

18. Has your country facilitated coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification? (decision VII/15)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the coordination to ensure that climate change mitigation and adaptation projects are in line with commitments made under the UNFCCC and the UNCCD.	
<p>The Supreme Council of Environment is the authority of national coordination in different environmental aspects.</p> <p>The project NCSA is in progress in cooperation with GEF-UNDP for the assessment of national capacities on biodiversity, climate change and desertification.</p>	

Box XLII .

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

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

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Article 7 - Identification and monitoring

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

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

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

There are national monitoring programs at species level, and there are a few individual research on the diversity of some land races but all of these activities are dispersed.

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

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

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

The following table shows the number of species in different groups of plants and animal as mentioned in the National Country Study, which is a compilation of data from references:

	Taxa	Species in Syria	world Species	Percentage
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1	Fungi	641	46983	1,36%
2	Bacteria	550	26900	1,47%
3	Algae	754	30600	2,4%
4	Gymnosperms	10	750	1,33%
5	Angiosperms	3100	220,000	1.4%
6	Insects	1500	751 000	0.1%
7	Fish	452	19056	2.37%
8	Amphibians	16	4184	0.38%
9	Reptiles	127	6300	2.01%
10	Birds	360	9040	3.98%
11	Mammals	125	4000	3.12%

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

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

Further comments on monitoring programmes on key threats to biodiversity.

There are no complete monitoring of threats on biodiversity components, but there are studies of the state of degraded land, especially forest lands which are used by local population for their daily needs. But this is not regular. There is continuous monitoring of forest fire sand their alleviation in natural forests and reforested areas. The is a network for monitoring soil erosion at national level and in ACSAD.

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

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

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

We are working on a national databank on biodiversity, but we are in the starting stage of data entry in the computer.

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

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

Further comments on the indicators identified and in use.

Used criteria are the same as in the NBSAP. The Directorate of Biodiversity has created a web-site on the internet, but it is not functioning as a result of financial support shortage.

Box XLIII.

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

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

Decisions on Taxonomy

24.? Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	X
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	
Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.	
<p>There is no complete plan for taxonomy, as the efforts in this domain are individual trials done by master and PhD students and their supervisors. Other studies are done in the Ministry of Agriculture. The results have to be compiled and edited. There is a project proposal in preparation and to establish a national herbarium.</p>	

25.? Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.	

26.? Does your country provide training programmes in taxonomy and work to increase its capacity of taxonomic research? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on training programmes in taxonomy and efforts to increase the capacity of taxonomic research.	
<p>There is no special training program, but there are some efforts in some national institutes, but attention is mounting and we expect more efforts in this direction.</p>	

27.? Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) No, but steps are being considered	X
c) Yes, for some institutions	
d) Yes, for all major institutions	

28.*² Is your country collaborating with the existing regional, subregional and global initiatives, partnerships and institutions in carrying out the programme of work, including assessing regional taxonomic needs and identifying regional-level priorities? (decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) No, but collaborative programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessments)	
d) Yes, comprehensive collaborative programmes are being implemented (please provide details about collaborative programmes, including results of regional needs assessment and priority identification)	
Further information on the collaboration your country is carrying out to implement the programme of work for the GTI, including regional needs assessment and priority identification.	

29.* Has your country made an assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities at the national level for the implementation of the Convention? (annex to decision VI/8)	
a) No	
b) Yes, basic assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	X
c) Yes, thorough assessment made (please provide below a list of needs and capacities identified)	
Further comments on national assessment of taxonomic needs and capacities.	
There is a preliminary assessment of national needs for taxonomy which was done during the add-on activities of NBSAP. These needs are:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Needs for taxonomists in some plant and animal groups. 2- Lack of infrastructures such as museums, botanic gardens and herbaria. 3- The project of National Capacity Assessment for the three conventions of Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification is in progress. 	

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

30. * Is your country working on regional or global capacity building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties? (annex to decision VI/8)

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

Further comments on regional or global capacity-building to support access to, and generation of, taxonomic information in collaboration with other Parties.

There is some personal cooperation in some faculties of the universities with researchers from neighboring countries like Jordan and other countries on the taxonomy of flora and fauna. This cooperation is done through University staff.

31. * Has your country developed taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention as called upon in decision VI/8? (annex to decision VI/8)

a) No	
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	X
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	X
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	X
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.

Taxonomy support is mainly directing post graduate studies towards taxonomy, no technical or financial support. The Ministry of Higher Education supports sabbatical leaves of the university staff to update their references and to carry out research abroad. These studies are partly on national biodiversity.

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

a) No	X
b) Yes, for access and benefit-sharing (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for Article 8(j) (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for the ecosystem approach (please provide details below)	

e) Yes, for impact assessment, monitoring and indicators (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for invasive alien species (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for others (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the cross-cutting issues under the Convention.	

Article 8 - *In-situ* conservation
[excluding paragraphs (a) to (e), (h) and (j)]

33. ? On Article 8(i), has your country endeavored to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are being identified	
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.	
Updating of some legislations has been done (Hunting law, Water fauna protection law, Forestry law and Prohibition of plowing in the Badia law.). New laws have been adopted (Control of trade in wild endangered animals and plants, Declaration of protected areas) and the introduction of new concepts on dealing with fauna, specially to local people around protected areas. These activities will help directly or indirectly sustainable use of biological resources. Syria started a small grants project which is financed by GEF and executed by NGOs to the local population aiming at the creation of new opportunities of work and convincing them to use biological resources sustainability.	

34. ? On Article 8(k), has your country developed or maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations?	
a) No	
b) No, but legislation is being developed	
c) Yes, legislation or other measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
Further information on the legislation and/or regulations for the protection of threatened species and populations.	
Updating of some legislations has been done (Hunting law, Water fauna protection law, Forestry law and Prohibition of plowing in the Badia law.). New laws have been adopted (Control of trade in wild endangered animals and plants, Declaration of protected areas) and the introduction of new concepts on dealing with fauna, specially to local people around protected areas. These activities will help directly or indirectly sustainable use of biological resources. Syria started a small grants project	

which is financed by GEF and executed by NGOs to the local population aiming at the creation of new opportunities of work and convincing them to use biological resources sustainability.

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

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

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

Box XLIV.

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on targets and indicators for protected areas.

Special criteria for establishing different types of protected areas were elaborated. These criteria are similar to IUCN standards. The criteria define tolerated and prohibited activities in each type of the

protected areas. It will be used later in the monitoring process of the state of the protected area.

The decision of each protected area includes the aims of its establishment such as the protection of certain unique ecosystem or the protection of an endangered plant or animal species.

A prominent feature of the protected areas is the increase of the total protected area at national level and the monitoring of the state of living species in the protected area.

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

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

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

The general trend is the increase of the area which is protected to reach the global objective of 10% of the total area of the country. This is clear from the increasing number of protected areas to 22 , while it was 14 protected areas when the Second National Report was delivered.

Protected areas with special importance is a new type of protected area such as the Northern Bald Ibis protected area, Jubata el Khashab, Abu Hardoub river island. Another new type of protected areas is Protection areas such as Maar Moussa and Deir Atiyeh.

Some protected areas were extended such as the Cedar and Fir protected area which was extended from 1350 hectare to 200 000 hectares. This was done according to the new management plan which was prepared in a project financed by GEF through the World Bank. The same was done in Jabal Abdel Aziz protected area which was extended from 4000 hectares to 49 000 hectares during a project financed by GEF and executed by UNDP.

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

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

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

To represent all national main ecosystems in the protection, three coastal and marine protected areas were declared:

Um el Toyour.

Raas el Bassit

Fanar Ben Hani

Some inland waters protected areas were declared such as Jabboul Salina which is accepted as RASMAR protected area. Thawra and Abu Hardoub protected areas are islands in the Euphrates River. Kha touniyeh is a saline lake in the north eastern part of Syria will be soon declared and accepted as RAMSAR wetland protected area.

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on practical steps for improving integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures.	
All forests and reforested areas are protected according to the Syrian law, whether it is declared as protected area or not. This means that it is not clear in some cases the real limits of the protected area. There is a kind of integration between the protected area and the landscape around it,	

40. Is your country applying environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant EIA guidelines are under development	
c) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to some projects or plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, EIA guidelines are applied to all relevant projects or plans (please provide details below)	
Further comments on application of environmental impact assessment guidelines to projects or plans for evaluating effects on protected areas.	

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below))	
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.	

42. Has your country undertaken national protected-area capacity needs assessments and established capacity building programmes? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, a basic assessment undertaken and some programmes established (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, a thorough assessment undertaken and comprehensive programmes established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on protected-area capacity needs assessment and establishment of capacity building programmes.	

43. Is your country implementing country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant plan is under development	
c) Yes, relevant plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant plan is being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on implementation of country-level sustainable financing plans that support national systems of protected areas.	

44. Is your country implementing appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant methods, standards, criteria and indicators are under development	
c) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, some national methods, standards, criteria and indicators developed and in use and some international methods, standards, criteria and indicators in use (please provide details below)	
Further comments on methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of protected areas management and governance.	

Box XLV.

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

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

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Article 8(h) - Alien species

45. Has your country identified alien species introduced into its territory and established a system for tracking the introduction of alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, some alien species identified but a tracking system not yet established	
c) Yes, some alien species identified and tracking system in place	
d) Yes, alien species of major concern identified and tracking system in place	

46. ? Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?

a) No	
b) Yes, but only for some alien species of concern (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for most alien species (please provide details below)	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but needs and priorities are being identified	
c) Yes, national needs and priorities have been identified (please provide below a list of needs and priorities identified)	
Further comments on the identification of national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles.	

51. Has your country created mechanisms to coordinate national programmes for applying the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms created to coordinate national programmes for implementing the Guiding Principles.	

52. Has your country reviewed relevant policies, legislation and institutions in the light of the Guiding Principles, and adjusted or developed policies, legislation and institutions? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but review under way	
c) Yes, review completed and adjustment proposed (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, adjustment and development ongoing	
e) Yes, some adjustments and development completed (please provide details below)	
Further information on the review, adjustment or development of policies, legislation and institutions in light of the Guiding Principles.	

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	

54. Is your country collaborating with trading partners and neighboring countries to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity in ecosystems that cross international boundaries? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) Yes, relevant collaborative programmes are under development	
c) Yes, relevant programmes are in place (please specify below the measures taken for this purpose)	
Further comments on collaboration with trading partners and neighboring countries.	

55. Is your country developing capacity to use risk assessment to address threats of invasive alien species to biodiversity and incorporate such methodologies in environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA)? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but programmes for this purpose are under development	
c) Yes, some activities for developing capacity in this field are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities are being undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further information on capacity development to address threats of invasive alien species.	

56. Has your country developed financial measures and other policies and tools to promote activities to reduce the threats of invasive species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant measures and policies are under development	
c) Yes, some measures, policies and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures and tools are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of financial measures and other policies and tools for the promotion of activities to reduce the threats of invasive species.	

Box XLVI.

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

Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

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

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Status and Trends

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

Akwé:Kon Guidelines

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

60. Has your country used the Akwé:Kon Guidelines in any project proposed to take place on sacred sites and/or land and waters traditionally occupied by indigenous and local communities? (decision VII/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but a review of the Akwé: Kon guidelines is under way	
c) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the projects where the Akwé:Kon Guidelines are applied.	

Capacity Building and Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities

61. Has your country undertaken any measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities to be effectively involved in decision-making related to the use of their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes being developed	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to enhance and strengthen the capacity of indigenous and local communities.	

62. Has your country developed appropriate mechanisms, guidelines, legislation or other initiatives to foster and promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision making, policy planning and development and implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at international, regional, subregional, national and local levels? (decision V/16)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are under development	
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.	

63. Has your country developed mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities with specific provisions for the full, active and effective participation of women in all elements of the programme of work? (decision V/16, annex)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are being developed	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanisms for promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all elements of the programme of work.	

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes	

65. Has your country assisted indigenous and local community organizations to hold regional meetings to discuss the outcomes of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties and to prepare for meetings under the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details about the outcome of meetings)	
Further information on the outcome of regional meetings.	

66. Has your country supported, financially and otherwise, indigenous and local communities in formulating their own community development and biodiversity conservation plans that will enable such communities to adopt a culturally appropriate strategic, integrated and phased approach to their development needs in line with community goals and objectives?	
a) No	
b) Yes, to some extent (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	
Further information on the support provided.	

Box XLVII.

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

Article 9 - *Ex-situ* conservation

67. ? On Article 9(a) and (b), has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity native to your country and originating outside your country?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures adopted for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.	
<p>The Ministry of Agriculture, ACSAD and ICARDA have live plant collections and seed banks as well as live collections of some local breeds of animals like goats and cows.</p> <p>There are efforts to establish national botanic gardens and zoos.</p>	

68. ? On Article 9(c), has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.	
<p>One of the NBSAP objectives is the propagation and breeding of endangered species. Some species like the Arabian Oryx and some Gazelle species are bred in Talila Protected Area. Other species like Syrian Ostrich and Syrian bear are proposed. Some endangered trees are propagated such as <i>Juniperus excelsa</i> and <i>Pistacia</i> species. These trees are propagated in government nurseries and planted in reforestation projects.</p>	

69. ? On Article 9(d), 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?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <i>ex-situ</i> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <i>in-situ</i> populations of species.	
<p>This activity is partly done, especially some endangered plant species are propagated and replanted in their original habitat.</p>	

Box XLVIII .

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

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

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Article 10 - Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

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

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

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

Sustainable use is considered in agrobiodiversity, forests, reforested areas and marine fishing. The tools are fishing nets/control so that only adult fish is caught. The law and regulation of fishing season is also important.

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

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

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

- 1- Hunting was prohibited for ten years. Hunting law is being updated.
- 2- Regulating the season and fishnets openings and halting trawling from 2006 onwards.
- 3- Prohibiting plowing in the Badia and instoring sustainable use of rangelands.
- 4- Enforcing forest law to regulate the use of forest products.
- 5- Establishing protected areas.
- 6- Starting the control commercialization of endangered living species.

72. ? On Article 10(c), has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements?

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

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

There are a few measures such as the management of the seasons and tools of fishing (like the fishingnet openings) and halting fishing by trawling that will be applied in 2006 as well as :

- Confiscating boats.
- Halting cultivation in the Badia and regulating grazing.
- Updating hunting laws.

73. ? On Article 10(d), has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced?

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

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

- The project of small grants financed by GEF to create alternative livelihood.
- The Syrian Fund for countryside development.
- General trend of the General Organization for State Planning is to cooperate with different ministries and NGOs to support development projects in the Eastern regions of Syria where the population depends completely on natural resources.

74. ? Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	X
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	
c) Yes, indicators and incentive measures identified (please describe below)	
Further comments on the identification of indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	

75. ? Has your country implemented sustainable use practices, programmes and policies for the sustainable use of biological diversity, especially in pursuit of poverty alleviation? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, programmes and policies are under review	
c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.	
<p>There are no specific experience programs or policies for sustainable use of biodiversity but there is a growing interest in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Organization for eliminating unemployment. - The Syrian Fund for Countryside Development. - NGOs are supported and given a bigger role to play. - The Program of Small Grants financed by GEF. 	

76. ? Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>Participation of the private sector started in some activities concerning the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity. This is done through the Chamber of Industry, Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Tourism and the Handcraft Union.</p>	

77. Has your country initiated a process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	
b) No, but the principles and guidelines are under review	
c) Yes, a process is being planned	
d) Yes, a process has been initiated (please provide detailed information)	
Further information on the process to apply the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	
No data available.	

78. Has your country taken any initiative or action to develop and transfer technologies and provide financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity? (decision VII/12)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some technologies developed and transferred and limited financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many technologies developed and transferred and significant financial resources provided (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development and transfer of technologies and provision of financial resources to assist in the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity.	

Biodiversity and Tourism

79. ? Has your country established mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity?	
a) No	X
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please specify below)	
d) Yes, existing mechanisms are under review	
Further comments on the establishment of mechanisms to assess, monitor and measure the impact of tourism on biodiversity.	
<p>There are no programs for impact assessment of tourism on biodiversity but field studies and on the spot evaluation are used for impact assessment of developmental projects, touristic or otherwise.</p> <p>Depending on Environmental law No 50, factories and developmental projects (touristic projects included) were give a year time period extendable one more year to evaluate their environmental threats and apply specified environmental criteria for their activities, thereafter the establishment will</p>	

be closed if it does not comply.

This step will serve the safety of the environment and decrease pollution impact on humans and natural resources such as biodiversity.

The Ministry of Environment cooperates with the Ministry of Tourism to expand ecotourism and some projects have started in some protected sites.

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

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

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

- A special ecotourism section was established in the Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas at the General Organization for Environmental Affairs.
- The Ministry of Tourism has also a special Section of ecotourism.
- Training courses for different ministries on ecotourism like the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Irrigation at a central and regional levels.
- Some ecotourism projects are already working in some protected areas such as the project of the Swiss Cooperation Agency in Jaboul Protected area.

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

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

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

- The concept of ecotourism is being developed.
- Some of the national programs apply this concept.
- Small funds project is creating alternative livelihood income for local people.
- Syrian Fund for Countryside Development.

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

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

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

The Ministry of Tourism began considering environmental considerations in Touristic establishments such as control of pollution and garbage produced in these establishments and protection of biodiversity as much as possible.

The concept of ecotourism is already included in the forestry law which is going to be updated.

Box XLIX.

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

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

Article 11 - Incentive measures

83. ? Has your country established programmes to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, some programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the programmes to identify and adopt incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.	
The principle of incentives is one of the objectives defined in the NBSAP but the application is still in preparation.	

84. ? Has your country developed the mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas? (decisions III/18 and IV/10)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, review of impact of mechanisms available (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the mechanism or approaches to incorporate market and non-market values of biodiversity into relevant plans, policies and programmes.	

85. ? Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place	
d) Yes, many programmes are in place	

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

measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)

a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	X
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	

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

- 1- Updating legislation on hunting and fishing.
- 2- Regulating hunting so that sustainability is assured.
- 3- Enforcing the establishment and monitoring of protected areas.
- 4- Starting an institutional framework of biosafety.
- 5- Starting the control of endangered species commercialization.
- 6- Starting developmental impact assessment projects on biodiversity.

Box L.

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

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

Article 12 - Research and training

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

a) No

b) No, but programmes are under development

X

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

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

There are three main axes in training and education :

- 1- Research : the Ministry of Higher Education has been supporting research on biodiversity and the management of its components. This is specially true in the Faculties of Agriculture and Sciences. A special higher diploma started in the Faculty of Sciences on the Management of Threats and Risks on the Environment. This diploma is developed now into a master degree where different graduate students can follow their postgraduate studies including biodiversity management.
- 2- Education : the concepts of biodiversity and law to deal with its components are introduced in the programs of primary and secondary schools by the Ministry of Education.
- 3- Field level : training technical staff in the management of protected areas. The Ministries of Agriculture, Environment, Irrigation and Tourism are carrying this out through projects special courses.

Still there is a national need to train the trainers in these domains.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

During the last few years attention was given to research on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Ministries of Environment and Agriculture are cooperating with the Ministry of Higher Education in supporting research on biodiversity in the Faculty of Agriculture and Sciences. Every year postgraduate students are graduated in Diploma, Master and PhD degrees, many of them have done scientific research on one of the components of biodiversity.

The first edition of the Atlas of Biodiversity in Syrian Flora and Fauna was published in 2004 and there will soon be a second edition.

The National Country Study of biodiversity has also been printed and distributed.

90. ? On Article 12(c), does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources?

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

The execution of different international conventions related to biodiversity needs the updating of scientific means to study the components of biodiversity such as :

- 1- Field research on marine biodiversity along the Syrian coast.
- 2- International project afford financial and technical support to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources.

Box LI.

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

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

Article 13 - Public education and awareness

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

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

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

There is no special CEPA strategy in Syria, but communication with the people and public awareness are carried out in different sectors.

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

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

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

Many activities are carried out and serve public awareness. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment cooperates with the Ministry of Information or nation and media means in this regard. There are periodic programs on television, radio and newspapers on biodiversity. There is also cooperation with post services on this subject.

Every biodiversity project which has been carried out contained activities related to CEPA.

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

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

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

There are different activities serving public awareness on biodiversity. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment are cooperating with the Ministry of Information, media means and postservice and communication means. There are periodical programs on the television and radio. Many poststamps were issued on biodiversity. National media also cover all biodiversity activities, meetings, workshops and projects related to biodiversity. Many publications on biodiversity and how to deal with its components are distributed. Each project related to biodiversity has a CEPA component in addition to special CEPA activities.

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

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

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

Schools have after school activities and field trips related to biodiversity. The Ministry of Education has included the concept of biodiversity and how to deal with its components in the curricula of primary and secondary schools. Teachers get special training courses on how to teach students the ways to deal with biodiversity components. As part of the collaborate system of protecting forests, the Ministry of Agriculture carried out several training courses for local people around the forest to discuss with them forest biodiversity conservation and its importance for future generations. Women Union and other people organizations carry out special training courses to train trainers on wise consumption and the conservation of natural resources and sustainable use. They distribute special handouts on these issues. The Ministry of Irrigation is raising public awareness on the importance of wetlands biodiversity.

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

a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	

c) Yes, some activities supported (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many activities supported (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the support of national, regional and international activities prioritized by the Global Initiative on Education and Public Awareness.	
The national stakeholders support the CEPA activities in the media and during their meetings with local population. This is also done by people organizations and NGOs which are taking their part in the Syrian society.	

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?

a) No	X
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness.	
These objectives were included in national strategies but there are obstacles mainly financial and technical to execute these initiatives.	

97. Does your country promote cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national, regional and international levels? (decisions IV /10 and VI/19)

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on the promotion of cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness, at the national, regional and international levels.	
Cooperation is going on and includes the exchange of public means such as books, posters and films as was the case of the film on the Northern Bold Ibis, which is an endangered migrating bird.	

98. Is your country undertaking some CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention?

a) No (please specify reasons below)	
b) Yes, some activities undertaken for some issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, many activities undertaken for most issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive activities undertaken for all issues and thematic areas (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic	

programmes of work adopted under the Convention.

National stakeholders are working on the introduction of biodiversity concepts on different educational levels as well as in university education. These activities included also public awareness of the importance of biological diversity.

Syria supports the participation of national stakeholders who carry out CEPA activities.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on the initiatives by major groups, key actors and stakeholders that integrate biodiversity conservation in their practice and education programmes as well as their relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

Supporting such initiatives is approved in principle and is carried out according to available financial and technical capabilities. Syria carries out some educational programs with some national stakeholders especially media institutions like the radio, television and newspapers in addition to the Ministries of Education, Environment and Agriculture.

Some periodicals started to concentrate on biodiversity issues like Environment and Business magazines.

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

a) No

b) No, but some programmes are under development

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

d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)

X

Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.

This is done indirectly by way of affording data on threatened and endangered species and the importance of species in the environmental ecosystem. There are also some activities concerning the role of local population and public in general in the protection of endangered species.

Box LII .

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

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

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Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

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

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

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

An Environmental law No. 50 was approved on 8/7/2002. Part of the articles of this law concern Environmental Impact Assessment of all Industrial, agricultural and tourism development projects and all other developments which may have negative impact on biodiversity.

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

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

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

This started through the establishment of special environmental criteria for development projects so that there will be no negative impact on biological diversity.

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

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

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

In addition to some bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding with Arabic countries, many conventions related to biodiversity conservation and protection of the environment were ratified by Syria, such as :

- 1- Signature and ratification of the CBD.
- 2- Protocol of Special Protected Areas in the Mediterranean.
- 3- ACCOBAMS.
- 4- CITES.
- 5- RAMSAR.
- 6- CMS.
- 7- AEWA.
- 8- CCD.
- 9- Biosafety.
- 10- Climate Change.
- 11- Conservation of nature and culture heritage.
- 12- Convention on the Genetic Resources with FAO.

The execution of these conventions need bilateral or multilateral cooperation to alleviate the pressure on biological resources outside national borders.

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

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

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

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

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

There are regulations to protect biodiversity from manmade fires and the protection from fire authorities are working on the extension of the concept of forest and the means to do that in a collaborative way starting from public awareness and forest fire prevention to the participation of local people in fire extinction and national capabilities support.

In addition there are national efforts to build capacities for the management of catastrophies in general.

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

a) No

b) No, but application of the guidelines under consideration

c) Yes, some aspects being applied (please specify below)

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

Further comments on application of the guidelines.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please specify the measures)

X

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

This was mentioned in the Environmental Law No. 50 where the article No. 28 points out that any party having caused harm to living organisms is responsible to reverse the situation as it was before the damage but this regulation of this law needs to be applied.

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

a) No

b) No, but some measures are being developed

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

X

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

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

- 1- Updating laws related to land and water biodiversity conservation.
- 2- Enforcing laws of hunting and fishing.
- 3- Enforcing the law on importing and exporting endangered plant and animal species.

- 4- Including biodiversity in Environment Impact Assessment.
- 5- Establishment of protected areas.

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

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

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

There is cooperation with some parties to upgrade national capacities on biodiversity conservation :

- 1- Cooperation with many Arab countries in controlling commercialization of wild animal and plants species especially those endangered.
- 2- Cooperation with some Donor Organizations and Institutions in the domain of capacity building (Germany).
- 3- Carrying out some projects like ecotourism (Switzerland).
- 4- Birdlife-International (England).

Box LIII.

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

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

Article 15 - Access to genetic resources

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

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

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

Syria is intending to facilitate the exchange of genetic resources. A draft law to regulate the exchange of genetic resources is in preparation. There is already an exchange of genetic resources between Arab countries according to a memorandum of understanding.

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

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

Further information on the measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties.

The draft law on Genetic Resources Exchange between Syria and other countries will take that in consideration.

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	x
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive legislation is in place (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy or subsidiary legislation are in place (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the type of measures taken.	

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

a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on national measures taken which consider the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.	
A draft law on the exchange of genetic resources between Syria and other countries will regulate this objective.	

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

a) No	
b) No, but steps being taken to do so (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Please provide details and specify successes and constraints in the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.	
The draft on the exchange of Genetic Resources between Syria and other countries will take that in consideration.	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Syria has carried out an agrobiodiversity project which worked on the protection of some plant genetic resources in two different areas which are rich in these genetic resources. The project supported local population to make use of these resources, to propagate and protect them.

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Box LIV.

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

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

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Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology

117. ? On Article 16(1), has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment?

a) No	x
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.	

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

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

119. ? On Article 16(4), has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of Government institutions and the private sector of developing countries?

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

Box LV.

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

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

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Programme of Work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation

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

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

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

A General Commission on Biotechnology was established in Damascus University. A biotechnology laboratory was equipped in the General Commission for Agricultural Research in the Ministry of Agriculture.

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

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

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

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122. Has your country made any technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	X
c) Yes, basic assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, thorough assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on technology assessments addressing technology needs, opportunities and barriers in relevant sectors as well as related needs in capacity building.	

123. Has your country made any assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but assessments are under way	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the assessments and risk analysis of the potential benefits, risks and associated costs with the introduction of new technologies.	
Syria is working this year and coming year on the establishment of a special institutional framework for biosafety so that GMO could be imported or exported. The project includes the preparation of a report on the dangers of the import of GMO.	

124. Has your country identified and implemented any measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including assessing capacity building needs? (annex to decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are in place and being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on measures to develop or strengthen appropriate information systems for technology transfer and cooperation.	

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

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

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

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Box LVI.

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

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

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Article 17 - Exchange of information

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

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

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. ? On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	X
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVII .

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

Article 18 - Technical and scientific cooperation

128. ? On Article 18(1), has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	x
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation with Arabic countries especially neighboring countries in the domain of exchange of expertise such as gene transfer between Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Westbank and the Agrobiodiversity Project. - Cooperation with International Organizations working in Syria (ACSAD and ICARDA). - Cooperation with the secretariat of international conventions which have been ratified by Syria. - Cooperation with United Nations Offices working on the protection of the environment 	

(UNEP, UNDP, GEF...).

129. ? On Article 18(4), has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention?

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

130. ? On Article 18(5), has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention?

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

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

Protection projects with some neighboring countries as with Lebanon.

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

a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	X - Coordination at national level is starting. Cooperation at national level is done with some organizations like Birdlife International in the domain of bird research.
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	

The following question (132) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

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

a) No	
b) Yes, by using funding opportunities	
c) Yes, by means of access to, and transfer of technology	

d) Yes, by using research cooperation facilities	
e) Yes, by using repatriation of information	
f) Yes, by using training opportunities	
g) Yes, by using promotion of contacts with relevant institutions, organizations and the private sector	
h) Yes, by using other means (please specify below)	
Further comments on CHM developments to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to gain access to information in the field of scientific and technical cooperation.	

133. Has your country used CHM to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant initiatives under consideration	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.	
<p>In some sectors the General Commission for Agriculture Research has created a site on the Internet to serve agricultural research.</p> <p>The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment is preparing a databank on biodiversity to make it available to researchers and decision makers.</p>	

134. Has your country developed, provided and shared services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of the CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify services and tools below)	X
Further comments on services and tools to enhance and facilitate the implementation of CHM and further improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment is preparing a databank on biodiversity to make it available to researchers and decision makers. 2. We are preparing a databank on GMOs which are important for Syria. 3. Syria started preparing information ?????????????????????? related to biosafety 	

Box LVIII.

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

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

Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

135. ? On Article 19(1), has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research?

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

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

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

Box LIX.

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

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

f) constraints encountered in implementation.

Article 20 – Financial resources

Box LX.

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

a) Budgetary allocations by national and local Governments as well as different sectoral ministries	The government increased the annual budgets of some institutions working on biodiversity in the Ministry of Agriculture (Directorate of forestry, the General Commission for Agricultural Research), the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment (Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas).
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	There are some projects which were financed by donors and especially capacity building on protected area management and ecotourism.
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	Some projects were carried out financed by the European Union on preparing management plans for some protected areas.
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	There is financial support from GEF, UNDP and UNEP.
f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	There are some small taxes against the use of some natural resources or the collection of some nature products in the forest. These taxes are minimal and do not equal the value of the products.

Box LXI.

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

There is no special fund for biodiversity, but there are a few allocations which support indirectly biodiversity conservation through concerned authorities in the Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Irrigation. There is a special budget for reforestation and propagation of forest trees in government nurseries.

137. ? On Article 20(1), has your country provided financial support and incentives to those national activities that are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes, incentives only (please provide a list of such incentives below)	
c) Yes, financial support only	X
d) Yes, financial support and incentives (please provide details below)	
Further comments on financial support and incentives provided.	
There is no special fund for biodiversity, but there are special annual allocations which support directly or indirectly the protection of biodiversity components. This is done through specialized directorates concerned with biodiversity conservation in the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment, Agriculture and Irrigation. Such as the special budget of reforestation and forest trees propagation in government nurseries.	

The next question (138) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

138. ? On Article 20(2), has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please indicate the amount, on an annual basis, of new and additional financial resources your country has provided)	
Further comments on new and additional financial resources provided.	

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

139. ? On Article 20(2), has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable it to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfill the obligations of the Convention?	
a) No	
b) Yes	X

140. ? Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity, including support provided by the private sector? (decision V/11)	
a) No	
b) No, but procedures being established	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X

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

This is done through the projects which are financed by GEF, UNEP and UNDP.

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

a) No

b) No, but exemptions are under development (please provide details below)

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

X

Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.

The activities of the projects which are financed by GEF and other international donors do not pay custom fees, such as equipment and machinery which were imported for the project of biodiversity conservation and protected areas management (Cedar Protected Area) was exempted from import tax. This is true for GEF and other International financing projects.

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

a) No

b) No, but review is under way

c) Yes (please provide results of review below)

X

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

This revision is done through annual national budgets. The budget on the conservation of biodiversity is increasing annually.

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

a) No

b) No, but review is under way

c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)

d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)

X

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

Considerations of biodiversity are being included gradually in the policies and plans which aim at the protection of the environment. This is true in environmental impact assessment as well as policies on the protection of biological resources.

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes	
Biodiversity is included in some development activities and programs like environmental tourism which is related to biodiversity components (like bird and fauna) and nature hiking and recreation.	

The next question (145) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

145. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which area your country has provided financial support to developing countries and/or countries with economies in transition. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.	
A r e a s	Support provided
a) Undertaking national or regional assessments within the framework of MEA (decision VI/8)	
b) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	
c) Enhance national capacity to establish and maintain the mechanisms to protect traditional knowledge (decision VI/10)	
d) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation (decision V/26)	
e) Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (decision VI/9)	
f) Implementation of the Bonn Guidelines (decision VI/24)	
g) Implementation of programme of work on agricultural biodiversity (decision V/5)	
h) Preparation of first report on the State of World's Animal Genetic Resources (decision VI/17)	
i) Support to work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and development of regional and sub regional networks or processes (decision VI/27)	
j) Development of partnerships and other means to provide the necessary support for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and subhumid lands biological diversity (decision VII/2)	

k) Financial support for the operations of the Coordination Mechanism of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision VII/9)	
l) Support to the implementation of the Action Plan on Capacity Building as contained in the annex to decision VII/19 (decision VII/19)	
m) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27)	
n) Support to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28)	
o) Support to the development of national indicators (decision VII/30)	
p) Others (please specify)	
Further information on financial support provided to developing countries and countries with economies in transition.	

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

146. Please indicate with an "X" in the table below in which areas your country has applied for funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), from developed countries and/or from other sources. The same area may have more than one source of financial support. Please elaborate in the space below if necessary.			
Areas	Applied for funds from		
	GEF	Bilateral	Other
a) Preparation of national biodiversity strategies or action plans	X		
b) National capacity self-assessment for implementation of Convention (decision VI/27)	X		
c) Priority actions to implement the Global Taxonomy Initiative (decision V/9)			
d) <i>In-situ</i> conservation (decision V/16)	X	X	
e) Development of national strategies or action plans to deal with alien species (decision VI/23)			X
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)		X	X
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)		X	X
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)			
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)		X	

j) Activities for conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity (decision V/5)	X		
k) Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision VI/26)	X		
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			
n) Others (please specify)	X		
Further information on application for financial support.			
Some limited financial support is received from international NGOs like Birdlife International, IUCN, Hans Zeidel and spent on biodiversity conservation directly or indirectly.			

Box LXII .

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

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

D. THEMATIC AREAS

147. Please use the scale indicated below to reflect the level of challenges faced by your country in implementing the thematic programmes of work of the Convention (marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, dry and sub-humid lands and mountain biodiversity).	
3 = High Challenge	1 = Low Challenge
2 = Medium Challenge	0 = Challenge has been successfully overcome
N/A = Not applicable	

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

(l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	3	3	3	3	2	3
(m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	3	3	2	2
(n) Lack of economic incentive measures	3	2	2	2	3	
(o) Lack of benefit-sharing	2	2	2	2	2	
(p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2	2	2	2	3	
(q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	2	2	2	2	2	
(r) Lack of effective partnerships	3	3	3	3	2	
(s) Lack of engagement of scientific community	1	0	1	1		
(t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	2	2	2	2		
(u) Poverty	3	3	3	3		
(v) Population pressure	3	3	3	3		
(w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	3	3	3	3		
(x) Lack of capacities for local communities	3	3	3	3	3	3
(y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	3	3	3	3	3	3
(z) Weak law enforcement capacity	0	1				
(aa) Natural disasters and environmental change						
(bb) Others (please specify)						

Inland water ecosystems

148. Has your country incorporated the objectives and relevant activities of the programme of work into the following and implemented them? (decision VII/4)				
Strategies, policies, plans and activities	No	Yes, partially, integrated but not implemented	Yes, fully integrated and implemented	N/A
a) Your biodiversity strategies and action plans			X	
b) Wetland policies and strategies		X		
c) Integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans being developed in line with paragraph 25 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development		X		
d) Enhanced coordination and cooperation between national actors responsible for inland water ecosystems and biological diversity		X		
Further comments on incorporation of the objectives and activities of the programme of work				

149. Has your country identified priorities for each activity in the programme of work, including timescales, in relation to outcome oriented targets? (decision VII/4)	
a) No	
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	X
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	
The strategic objectives were formulated, but the execution on the ground is only partly done.	

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

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

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

Syria supports this integration, but only part of the activities and obligations were met up till now as mentioned earlier. In the beginning of this report we mentioned the protection of some wetlands such as Jabbul Salina, which is recognized by RAMSAR as an internationally accepted site.

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

Issues	Yes	No	No, but development is under way
a) Goods and services provided by inland water ecosystems?		X	
b) The uses and related socioeconomic variables of such goods and services?		X	
c) Basic hydrological aspects of water supply as they relate to maintaining ecosystem function?			X
d) Species and all taxonomic levels?	X		
e) On threats to which inland water ecosystems are subjected?	X		

Further comments on the development of data sets, in particular a list of data sets developed in case you have replied "YES" above.

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

Box LXIII.

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity
General

153. Do your country's strategies and action plans include the following? Please use an "X" to indicate your response. (decisions II/10 and IV/15)	
a) Developing new marine and coastal protected areas	X
b) Improving the management of existing marine and coastal protected areas	X
c) Building capacity within the country for management of marine and coastal resources, including through educational programmes and targeted research initiatives (if yes, please elaborate on types of initiatives in the box below)	X
d) Instituting improved integrated marine and coastal area management (including catchments management) in order to reduce sediment and nutrient loads into the marine environment	

e) Protection of areas important for reproduction, such as spawning and nursery areas	X
f) Improving sewage and other waste treatment	X
g) Controlling excessive fishing and destructive fishing practices	X
h) Developing a comprehensive oceans policy (if yes, please indicate current stage of development in the box below)	
i) Incorporation of local and traditional knowledge into management of marine and coastal resources (if yes, please elaborate on types of management arrangements in the box below)	
j) Others (please specify below)	
k) Not applicable	
Please elaborate on the above activities and list any other priority actions relating to conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.	
<p>There is a preliminary coordination among the national stakeholders :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a system of monitoring the coasts and the extension of the area for coast guards. - Protection of breeding areas (prohibition of fishing by trawl, preservation of running water from rivers and wadis to sea). - A few laws and regulations concerning fishing and water fauna preservation were issued by the Minister of Agriculture: - (Decision No 34 halting any permission to new fishing boats and fixing the number of fishing boats to 1850 registered already by the Directorate of Ports . - Decision no. 54 prohibiting fishing by trawling 2004. - Decision no. 50 regulates the activities of sea bottom sweeping to start begin 2004. - Decision Decision no 15 prohibiting sea bottom sweeping in national waters from 2006 onwards. - Declaration of two marine protected areas (Umm Al Toyour and Raas el Bassit Fanar Benhani). - A management plan for Um Al Toyour protected area. 	

Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management

154. Has your country established and/or strengthened institutional, administrative and legislative arrangements for the development of integrated management of marine and coastal ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Early stages of development	X
c) Advanced stages of development	
d) Arrangements in place (please provide details below)	
e) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management.	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment in cooperation with UNDP has elaborated an integrated plan for the management of coastal areas in Syria. 2- There is a plan of cooperation between the Directorate of ports, Tourism, Marine forces and Marine Fishing in Latakia, the Directorate of Agriculture (fish resources) and the Institute of Marine Research to execute an integrated management of the coastal area. 	

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

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

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

1- The preparations of an integrated plan to answer this question are still in a preliminary stage. There are a few activities, which were carried out through some projects which are related to some items of this chapter.

2- The integrated plan for the management of coastal areas includes the selection of some proposed areas to be established as coastal protected areas, based on a scientific study which shows the importance of these sites for marine fauna and especially threatened species and the threats and their degree.

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

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

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

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

1- A preliminary evaluation study has been carried out through a project for the establishment of coastal and marine protected areas along the Syrian Coast. This was part of the Barcelona Protocol for a Mediterranean project.

2- Marine pollution is not as bad as along industrial coasts, but there is sewage water pollution and overfishing threats on marine biological resources.

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

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

Please elaborate on ongoing activities.

Marine and Coastal Protected Areas

158. Which of the following statements can best describe the current status of marine and coastal protected areas in your country? Please use an "X" to indicate your response.	
a) Marine and coastal protected areas have been declared and gazetted (please indicate below how many)	X
b) Management plans for these marine and coastal protected areas have been developed with involvement of all stakeholders	X
c) Effective management with enforcement and monitoring has been put in place	
d) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas is under development	X
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	X
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.	
<p>Three coastal protected areas were declared :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Um el Tuyur. - Raas el Bassit. - Fanar Benhani. <p>Field surveys were carried out to estimate the state of biodiversity.</p> <p>Other protected areas are proposed :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Raas Shamra. 2- Jun Jableh. 3- Sanawbar Jableh. 4- Arwad Island 5- Hamidieh on Lebanese borders. <p>A preliminary survey of these sites was carried out.</p>	

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	X
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	
d) Development of appropriate genetic resource management plans at the hatchery level	
e) Development of controlled hatchery and genetically sound reproduction methods in order to avoid seed collection from nature.	
f) If seed collection from nature cannot be avoided, development of environmentally sound practices for spat collecting operations, including use of selective fishing gear to avoid by-catch	
g) Use of native species and subspecies in mariculture	
h) Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polypoids.	
i) Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	
j) Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	
k) Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	
l) Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m) Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.	

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.	
a) No	X
b) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	
c) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	
e) Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.	
Studies are in progress.	

Box LXIV.

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

Agricultural biological diversity

161. ? Has your country developed national strategies, programmes and plans that ensure the development and successful implementation of policies and actions that lead to the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components? (decisions III/11 and IV/6)	
a) No	
b) No, but strategies, programmes and plans are under development	
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	X

d) Yes, comprehensive strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on agrobiodiversity components in national strategies, programmes and plans.	

162. ? Has your country identified ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity? (decision V/5)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
c) Yes, some measures identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures identified (please provide details below)	
Further information on ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <i>In-situ</i> and <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.	

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

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
Methods and technologies used in evaluation and monitoring of agrobiodiversity are used with traditional methods	

164. Is your country undertaking assessments of the interactions between agricultural practices and the conservation and sustainable use of the components of biodiversity referred to in Annex I of the Convention (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance)?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are under way	X
c) Yes, some assessments completed (please provide details below)	

d) Yes, comprehensive assessments completed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on assessment of biodiversity components (e.g. ecosystems and habitats; species and communities; genomes and genes of social, scientific or economic importance).	
This is done in the agrobiodiversity projects of conservation and propagation of genetoc types and their breeding to raise better economic senotypes..	

165. Has your country carried out an assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities in sustaining agricultural biodiversity and agro-ecosystem services for food production and food security?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, assessment is under way	
c) Yes, assessment completed (please specify where information can be retrieved below)	
Further comments on assessment of the knowledge, innovations and practices of farmers and indigenous and local communities.	
There is a partial evaluation through supporting farmers to continue their traditional practices in agriculture.	

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?	
a) No	
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on observations.	
The General Commision of Agricultural Research carries out agrobiodiversity monitoring, restoration is very limited according to available facilities.	

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management	
167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.	
Local inhabitants are trained to make use of the positive aspects of agrobiodiversity and to use modern technologies to improve their lifestandard so that they conserve land races.	

Programme element 3 - Capacity-building	
168. Has your country increased the capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders, to manage sustainable agricultural biodiversity and to develop strategies and methodologies for <i>In-situ</i> conservation, sustainable use and management of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)	X
Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.	
This was done in two different areas, south of Suweida in the South Syria and North-west of Syria in Lattaquia-Slenfe, during the Agrobiodiversity Project. The was to encourage farmers and local population to to protect local varieties of trees, shrubs and range plants. The farmers and local people were trained to carry out certain practices.	

169. Has your country put in place operational mechanisms for participation by a wide range of stakeholder groups to develop genuine partnerships contributing to the implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential mechanisms being identified	X
c) No, but mechanisms are under development	
d) Yes, mechanisms are in place	

170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures and arrangements being identified	X
c) No, but measures and arrangements are under development	
d) Yes, measures and arrangements are being implemented (please specify below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to improve the policy environment.	
There is no complete environmental policy, but there is a general tendency to increase the role of local people in protection through some incentives and benefit sharing of agrobiodiversity products.	

Programme element 4 – Mainstreaming	
171. Is your country mainstreaming or integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes?	
a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	
c) No, but potential frameworks and mechanisms are being identified	X
d) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed and integrated into some sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, some national plans or strategies mainstreamed into major sectoral plans and programmes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on mainstreaming and integrating national plans or strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity in sectoral and cross-sectoral plans and programmes.	
The coordination and cooperation among the ministries is carried out through the NBSAP, to define their roles and means to work together.	

172. Is your country supporting the institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms for the mainstreaming of agricultural biodiversity in agricultural strategies and action plans, and its integration into wider strategies and action plans for biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) Yes, by supporting institutions in undertaking relevant assessments	
c) Yes, by developing policy and planning guidelines	X
d) Yes, by developing training material	
e) Yes, by supporting capacity-building at policy, technical and local levels	
f) Yes, by promoting synergy in the implementation of agreed plans of action and between ongoing assessment and intergovernmental processes.	
Further comments on support for institutional framework and policy and planning mechanisms.	

Institutional capacities are available according to existing budgets, and according to the strategy and plans of the Ministry and the general strategy of biodiversity.

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

a) No

b) Yes (please provide details below)

X

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

This is done through the establishment of live genebanks in situ and ex situ which are managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, ACSAD and ICARDA..

Box LXV.

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

Box LXVI.

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

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

Forest Biological Diversity

General

174. Has your country incorporated relevant parts of the work programme into your national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national forest programmes?	
a) No	
b) Yes, please describe the process used	
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	X
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Lack of awareness of the importance of diversity in the forest. 2- The need of local people to forest products as a result of meager income. 3- Lack of financial support to meet research and training needs. 4- Difficulty of including these targets in the policies of socio-economic development in some sites. 	

Box LXVII.

Please indicate what recently applied tools (policy, planning, management, assessment and measurement) and measures, if any, your country is using to implement and assess the programme of work. Please indicate what tools and measures would assist the implementation.
<p>The main concepts and objectives of forestry policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- <u>Technical activities</u> such as natural and induced re generation of the forest and the operations of thinning, pruning, exploitation, forest roads and forestry guards stations establishment. 2- <u>Economic operations</u>: such as estimation of the quantities and qualities of wood produced according to the country needs and the nature of forests, the different uses of wood as exportation of wood as raw material or as industria products. 3- <u>Management and legislation operations</u>: Such as the delimitation of government and private forest land, forest mapping, Control of transgression, the relation of inhabitants with the forest, forest fire protection, forest roads contruction, recreation areas, arable lands in the forest and forest legislations which regulate the relation between the government and the people in the forest.

Box LXVIII .

Please indicate to what extent and how your country has involved indigenous and local communities, and respected their rights and interests, in implementing the programme of work.

The participation of local people was limited in the past to some areas, but participatory approach is growing through the establishment of people forests and the management of the relation with local people. People rights are considered, but use of forest products is changed, especially when it is destructive to forest resources.

Box LXIX.

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

- 1- Capacity building and training of staff for the management of protected areas.
- 2- Carrying out pilot projects which can be used as a model in other areas.
- 3- Upgrading institutional capacity of forest management.
- 4- Augmentation of forest budgets.
- 5- Increase of financial support for the introduction of modern concepts of the management and rehabilitation of degraded sites.

Box LXX.

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

There is cooperation with other countries, regional and international organizations in some projects in the forests, such as cooperation with the Italian Government to study the state and the classification of Syrian Forest ecosystems. This cooperation can not be included as between south and north but it goes according to the needs and proposals of national and international experts.

The main needs are:

- 1- Classification of Syrian forests.
- 2- Development of forest fire control means.
- 3- Training of staff.

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	
c) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>The protection of forests is a main concern for the Syrian Government, the Directorate of Forestry was established in the Ministry of Agriculture for this aim and it is responsible for the management and protection of the forest. Plans are being developed for the management and sustainable use of forest resources. These were tested in the Cedar Protected Area in a project which was financed by GEF through the World Bank.</p>	

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions</p> <p>The main threats are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Wood cutting for fuel and charcoal. b. Overgrazing. c. Forest fires. d. Hunting. e. Forest fragmentation and mixing with private property. f. Change of forest land into agriculture. g. Lck of trained staff.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>The main activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishing protected areas. 2. Applying forest laws to eliminate degradation, grazing , cutting and forest fires. 		

Protection of threatened species and propagating them in nurseries (Juniperus excelsa, Abies cilicica and Cedrus libani) and replanting them in their original habitat.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>This is done through :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Propagation of degraded species in the nurseries. 2. Declaring protected areas and establishment of new ones. <p>Examples of rehabilitation some of the forest components are the establishment of Talila and Jabal Abdelaziz protected areas and the reintroduction of Oryx and Gazelle.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A special department for forest rehabilitation is established in the Directorate of Forestry
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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

Burnt areas are reforested directly and guarded against grazing and other human activities.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	<p>Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>Forest policy is to decrease the exploitation of forest resources in the last years to protect it from degradation and to preserve its living resources.</p>
b) No		<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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

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179. Is your country undertaking any measures to promote access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
		There is a great need for a national law to regulate the exchange of plant genetic resources. A limited exchange of genetic resources with Arabic countries is going on, like wild almond and Pistyacia species.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the promotion of access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources. (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets)		

Programme element 2 – Institutional and socio-economic enabling environment		
180. Is your country undertaking any measures to enhance the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 1 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		There are effective institutions in the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture which support the Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected areas responsible for protection and sustainable use of biological resources and coordinating with all the national stakeholders who are working on biodiversity and the establishment of protected areas like the Directorate of Forestry in the Ministry of Agriculture.
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the enhancement of the institutional enabling environment for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, including access and benefit-sharing (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs,		

tools and targets).

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p> <p>There is a participation of local population in the management of protected areas, decision making and discussion of all related issues to find suitable solutions in a participatory way in to manage forests and control forest fires in all forest regions.</p>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities</p>
b) No	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Please provide reasons below</p>

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

- There are big efforts from all national stakeholders of forests through workshops, training courses, moving theatre, roadsigns, television programs to increase public awareness and to reach as many people as possible.
- Participation in international and regional meetings, periodical published material and field

surveys.

- There are extension services in all parts of Syria.
- Support of NGOs working on forest and cooperating with the Ministry to extend public awareness through presentation in the schools and city quarters.
- Cooperation with the Women Union in support to the protection of the forest and its resources for future generations.
- Working with media like television, radio and newspapers.
- Production of posters, pamphlets, handouts and brochures on the importance of the forest and its products.

Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring

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

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

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

There are general surveys of forests but they do not suffice for this aim.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		There are efforts on public awareness of biodiversity and its importance and the necessity of conservation. Studies on the diversity of biological resources are being taken in some sites such as Juniperus excelsa stands on the Antilebanon, abu Rujmein, Cedar forest and other sites to evaluate threats and degradation of these sites.

b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on improvement of knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
Efforts are being made to raise public awareness of the importance of biodiversity and its protection. Studies are currently under way in a few sites such as Juniperus excelsa forests, Abu Rujmein, Cedar and Fir forest to evaluate the threats and degradation caused to these sites in order to establish a plan of action.		

185. Is your country undertaking any measures to improve the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 3 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below
Further comments on the improvement of the understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
Concepts of protecting the environment are included in schoolbooks as well as in media programs.		

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
		There is a databank in the General Commission for Environmental Affairs and it is updated and fed constantly.
b) No		Please provide reasons below

Further comments on the improvement of the infrastructure for data and information management (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).	
There is now a databank in the General Organization of Environmental Affairs which is kept up to date.	

Box LXXI.

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

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

187. Is your country supporting scientifically, technically and financially, at the national and regional levels, the activities identified in the programme of work? (decisions V/23 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	
This is done through:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1- Decisions on the protections of the Badia and arid lands and the prohibition of plowing. 2- Scientific research on biological diversity in these areas. 3- Declaration of more than fourty range land protected areas. 	

188. Has your country integrated actions under the programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands into its national biodiversity strategies and action plans or the National Action Programme (NAP) of the UNCCD? (decisions V/23, VI/4 and VII/2)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X

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

Biodiversity was considered in the NBSAP as well as in the National Plan to Combat Desertification.

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

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

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

The Ministry of Agriculture supervises all field work on combating desertification in coordination with concerned national authorities. The Ministry of Local Administration and Environment is responsible for the application of UNCCED.

Programme Part A: Assessment

190. Has your country assessed and analyzed information on the state of dryland biological diversity and the pressures on it, disseminated existing knowledge and best practices, and filled knowledge gaps in order to determine adequate activities? (Decision V/23, Part A: Assessment, Operational objective, activities 1 to 6)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment is ongoing	
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the relevant information on assessments of the status and trends and dissemination of existing knowledge and best practices.

This is done through:

- 1- The National Country Study.
- 2- Some scientific studies which are carried by some researchers on the state of biodiversity in these areas.

Programme Part B: Targeted Actions

191. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences? (part B of annex I of decision V/23, activities 7 to 9)

a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the measures taken to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources, and to combat the loss of biological diversity in dry and sub-humid lands and its socio-economic consequences.

- 1- Many range land protected areas were declared to protect range plants in the Bdia and arid zones.
- 2- Grazing is managed in some areas in coordination with local people and bedouins.

192. Has your country taken measures to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work?

a) No	
b) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, all identified capacity needs met (please provide details below)	

Further comments on measures taken to strengthen national capacities, including local capacities, to enhance the implementation of the programme of work.

- 1- Training of staff in some range protected areas on protected areas management and the rehabilitation of some endangered animals.
- 2- Participation of local people in the management of some sites.
- 3- Establishment of a special Directorate of the Badia to supervise and monitor all activities in the Badia.

Box LXXII.

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

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

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Mountain Biodiversity

Programme Element 1. Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
193. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	X
b) No, but relevant measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity	
1- Syria started impact assessment studies of all developmental projects near or on high mountains. 2- Many slopes have been declared as protection areas on high mountains as well as some sites with special geological formations.	

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	X
b) No, but some measures are being considered	
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures taken to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity	
Some measures have been taken : 1- Establishment of some protected areas. 2- Reintroduction of some endangered species to their natural habitat on high mountains. 3- Establishment of protection areas on some mountains to rehabilitate the original vegetation.	

195. Has your country taken any measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	X
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to promote the sustainable use of mountain biological resources and to maintain genetic diversity in mountain ecosystems	
1- Updating of forestry law and improvement of forest policy. 2- Reforestation of of mountain with local tree species which were in these sites.	

196. Has your country taken any measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources, including preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge?	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures are being considered	X
c) Yes, some measures taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, many measures taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures for sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of mountain genetic resources	

Programme Element 2. Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing	
197. Has your country developed any legal, policy and institutional framework for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing this programme of work?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant frameworks are being developed	X
c) Yes, some frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive frameworks are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity and for implementing the programme of work on mountain biodiversity.	
This is done through decisions pertaining to biodiversity protection in general and decisions related to the protection of natural resources.	

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	
Syria participated in the International Year of Mountains in public awareness and celebrations.. There was cooperation with FAO in 2005 on public awareness on the value of biodiversity of mountains and how to preserve this diversity.	

**Programme Element 3. Supporting actions for conservation,
sustainable use and benefit sharing**

199. Has your country taken any measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity?

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

Further comments on the measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity

200. Has your country taken any measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

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

Further comments on the measures for improving research, technical and scientific cooperation and capacity building for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity

There are scientific research activities on animal biodiversity components beside some activities in ecotouristic sites.

201. Has your country taken any measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems?

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

Further comments on the measures to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

The establishment of some protection areas on mountains or the reforestation of some sites with local plant trees.

Box LXXIII .

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

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

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E. OPERATIONS OF THE CONVENTION

202. Has your country actively participated in subregional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention? (decision V/20)

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

Further comments on the regional and subregional activities in which your country has been involved.

A participation exists through the Arab League and partly through the Asiatic group of countries.

203. Is your country strengthening regional and subregional cooperation, enhancing integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and subregional processes? (decision VI/27 B)

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

Further comments on regional and subregional cooperation and processes.

This is done through the coordination with parties at regional and subregional level in the implementation of the Convention and the activities which serve this aim.

The following question (204) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

204. Is your country supporting the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes? (decision VI/27 B)

a) No	
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, included in existing cooperation frameworks (please provide	

details below)	
d) Yes, some cooperative activities ongoing (please provide details below)	
Further comments on support for the work of existing regional coordination mechanisms and the development of regional and subregional networks or processes.	

205. Is your country working with other Parties to strengthen the existing regional and subregional mechanisms and initiatives for capacity-building? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes	

206. Has your country contributed to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms for implementation of the Convention? (decision VI/27 B)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further comments on contribution to the assessment of the regional and subregional mechanisms.	
This is done through coordination with other parties at regional and international level in the implementation of the Convention and the activities which serve this aim.	

Box LXXIV.

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

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXV.

Please provide below recommendations on how to improve this reporting format.



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