

Islamic Republic of IRAN

THIRD NATIONAL REPORT

for the

Convention on Biological Diversity

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In the name of God

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No: 9, Gha'em Magham Ave., Tehran 15899,

Islamic Republic of Iran

Tel: +98(21) 8882-4513, FaX: +98(21) 8883-1297

URL: WWW.BIODIVERSITY.IR

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Drafting Group:

Mr. Mostafa PANAHI (Head of Group)

Mr. Asghar MOHAMMADI FAZEL

Mrs. Camellia MONAZZAM

Mrs. Mahboobeh TOHIDI

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List of Acronyms

CEP	Caspian Environment Programme
DoE	Department of Environment
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FRWO	Forest, Rangelands and Watershed Organisation
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoAJ	Ministry of Agricultural Jihad
MoE	Ministry of Energy
MoH	Ministry of Health
MPO	Management and Planning Organization
MSTR	Ministry of Science, Technology and Research
NAP	National Action Plan
NBSAP	National Biodiversity and Action Plan
NDP	National Development Plan
NCSD	National Committee for Sustainable Development

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A. REPORTING PARTY

Contracting Party	IRAN (Islamic Republic of)
NATIONAL FOCAL POINT	
Full name of the institution	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Name and title of contact officer	H.E. Seyed Mojtaba Arastou Director General for International Economic Affairs and Specialized Agencies
Mailing address	No. 8.2, Koushk Mesri street, Ferdousi Ave., Tehran, Islamic Republic of IRAN
Telephone	(+98-21) 6674-2931/ 6115-4505
Fax	(+98-21) 6670-4176
E-mail	sm_arastou@mfa.gov.ir or jbarmaki@gmail.com
CONTACT OFFICER FOR NATIONAL REPORT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)	
Full name of the institution	Department of Environment
Name and title of contact officer	Mr.Anoushirvan NAJAFI Deputy Head for the Biodiversity and Natural Environment
Mailing address	Pardisan Eco_Park, Hemmat Highway, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Telephone	(+98-21) 8826-9913
Fax	(+98-21) 8826-9912
E-mail	Najafi@irandoe.org http://www.biodiversity.ir
SUBMISSION	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report	
Date of submission	Dec. 2005

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 present document is the Third National Report of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It was drawn up by the “Natural Environment & Biodiversity Division of the Department of Environment, under the supervision of the Biodiversity sub-committee of the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), including representatives of Management and Planning Organization (MPO), Department of Environment (DoE), Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agricultural Jihad, Ministry of Science, Technology and Research (MSTR).

A series of roundtables and meetings was held to discuss the matter relevant experts and also to incorporate the viewpoints of national and local stakeholders. Some working groups were formed to use results of these meetings. The working groups, in consultation with Drafting Group identified expert reviewers from governments and other stakeholders to ensure that key experts are involved as appropriate as well as in the review process. The input from the review process submitted to the NCSD/Biodiversity Subcommittee, but the drafting group was responsible for incorporating corrections and revising the draft. Where reviewers' comments may be contentious and contradictory to other comments, the representative of DoE was deciding on the use or not of such comments.

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.

The amount of genetic diversity in Iran or that rate at which it is being lost is unknown, but recent studies and population declines indicate that this process is occurring rapidly. This negative effect on genetic variability may also limit species adaptation. No doubt that species with low levels of genetic variation may find adaptation difficult to disease or climate change.

Field studies in Iran confirm the presence of over 500 species of birds, 160 species of mammals, 1,035 species of fishes including 750 species belonging to Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman (with 9 endemic sp.), 100 species belonging to Caspian Sea (with 10 endemic sp.) and 185 species living in inland and fresh waters (with 15 endemic sp.) . While extinction is a natural process, but the current rate of extinction in Iran is greater than typical extinction rate in the fossil record. For example from 50 to 30 years ago Iran has lost two of its most spectacular carnivores, the Persian Lion and Caspian Tiger, as a result of uncontrolled hunting and habitat destruction. There are some other threatened species, which demonstrate the urgent need for conservation measures.

Species richness is not evenly distributed across the Country. Five major biomes are identified. Iranian habitats support some 8,200 species of plants (a conservative estimate), of which almost 1,900 are endemic. There are 12.4million hectares of woodland, and some 10,000 hectares of mangroves along the Persian Gulf coast. With regards to ecosystem diversity of marine and coastal zones in the North and South of the country, it consists of 25 ecological types and units, in which the most important are coral reefs, bays and small islands. The wetlands of Iran are globally

significant; large populations of migratory birds winter at these wetlands or use them on their way to and from wintering areas in Africa or the Indian sub-continent. Because of its large size and varied ecosystems, Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most important countries in the Middle East and Western Asia for conservation of biological diversity.

Guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity changed protection priorities from species to ecosystems in Iran. This may be clear in approach, but the implementation of regulations faces many problems, mostly due to inadequate size of protected areas, technical and administrative management inadequacies, and discouraging rigidity of protected area acts. However, the new approach to the protected areas and to conservation of biological diversity calls for inclusion of environmental concerns in any national or regional development policy.

Iran's biological diversity is the basis for its sustainable development, and the country's biological resources are described in terms of aquatic resources, coastal areas, agricultural activities, forests and rangelands, and wetlands. This makes the biodiversity as a direct source of food, fuel and medicines. The core benefits of agriculture and natural resources are attributed to the wide range of ecosystem goods and services derived from biodiversity at different levels, from genetic, species, and ecosystem.

The protected area system is described; outside this system biological diversity not very well conserved . Eco-tourism is not enough developed despite the spectacular potential.

The activities which pose an environmental threat to the biodiversity of Iran include: Over-grazing, poaching, tree felling, removal of shrubs and bushes for fuel, conversion of land for agriculture, road construction, mining, power transmission, grazing and other development activities. The convenient availability of energy derived from fossil fuels in the form of coal, oil, and natural gas energy has played a key role in the remarkable population explosion all over the country and also burning biomass fuel is now resulting in significantly over-exploitation of biodiversity.

Four strategies are formulated for conservation of biodiversity in future, and are to be incorporated into the three National Socio-Economic Five-Year Plans, from 2000 to 2015. The first strategy aims at the promotion of public participation. The second strategy relates to the formation of biodiversity information and monitoring systems. The third strategy includes reorganization of institutional structures for sustainable use. The fourth strategy deals with systematic management of biodiversity resources. A series of Action Plans will be developed for the implementation of these strategies.

Priority Setting

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

Article/Provision/Programme of Work	Level of Priority		
	High	Medium	Low
a) Article 5 – Cooperation		X	
b) Article 6 - General measures for conservation and sustainable use		X	
c) Article 7 - Identification and monitoring			X
d) Article 8 – <i>In-situ</i> conservation	X		
e) Article 8(h) - Alien species			X
f) Article 8(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions	X		
g) Article 9 – <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation		X	
h) Article 10 – Sustainable use of components of biological diversity		X	
i) Article 11 - Incentive measures		X	
j) Article 12 - Research and training	X		
k) Article 13 - Public education and awareness	X		
l) Article 14 - Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts		X	
m) Article 15 - Access to genetic resources			X
n) Article 16 - Access to and transfer of technology		X	
o) Article 17 - EXchange of information	X		
p) Article 18 – Scientific and technical cooperation		X	
q) Article 19 - Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits		X	
r) Article 20 - Financial resources	X		
s) Article 21 - Financial mechanism		X	
t) Agricultural biodiversity		X	

u) Forest biodiversity	X		
v) Inland water biodiversity	X		
w) Marine and coastal biodiversity	X		
x) Dryland and subhumid land biodiversity	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	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	3
b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	2	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	N/A	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	2	2	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3
f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	1	1	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3
g) Loss of	N/A	2	3	3	2	N/A	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	3

traditional knowledge																		
h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	N/A	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	2
i) Lack of accessible knowledge and information	N/A	1	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	1
j) Lack of public education and awareness at all levels	1	1	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	N/A	2	2	2	2	1	3	1
k) Existing scientific and traditional knowledge not fully utilized	N/A	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	N/A
l) Loss of biodiversity and the corresponding goods and services it provides not properly understood and documented	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	N/A
m) Lack of financial, human, technical resources	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3	3	2
n) Lack of economic incentive measures	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
o) Lack of benefit-sharing	1	2	1	3	2	3	1	3	2	1	0	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
p) Lack of synergies at national and international levels	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
q) Lack of horizontal cooperation among stakeholders	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
r) Lack of effective partnerships	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
s) Lack of engagement of scientific	1	1	1	2	2	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	N/A

community																		
t) Lack of appropriate policies and laws	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	2
u) Poverty	N/A	N/A	1	2	2	3	1	3	3	2	3	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
v) Population pressure	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	2	2	N/A	2	2	1	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
w) Unsustainable consumption and production patterns	N/A	1	2	3	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1
x) Lack of capacities for local communities	1	1	2	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	0
y) Lack of knowledge and practice of ecosystem-based approaches to management	N/A	1	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	0
z) Weak law enforcement capacity	0	1	2	2	3	1	1	2	3	1	0	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
aa) Natural disasters and environmental change	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2
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			X
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
There are some references in the forth National Development Plan.			
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		Some wetlands, are under study for feasibility to add to the Ramsar "List of wetlands of international importance", Meanwhile, recently established Ramsar Regional Center can be mentioned.
c) Marine and coastal	X		Some activities in Persian Gulf under the ROPME and IFRO agreement and some others in Caspian Sea under the CEP.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Responsible organisations with cooperation of some international bodies (e.g. UNCCD, GEF, IPF,...) are developing appropriate measures to study and protect fragile ecosystems in dry and subhumid lands of the country.
e) Forest	X		Increasing the number of Natural Forest Parks, Forest Reserves, and Natural Parks has been planned in fourth National Development Plan.
f) Mountain	X		Several programmes focusing specially on Alborz and Zagros regions have been developed.
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>Not only in the NBSAP but also in the National Development Plans, there are several targets addressing this issue.</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>Since implementation of the Fourth National Development Plan started from April 2005, there is no monitoring report on the status or trends but it is a priority to make this system Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) in regard to Iran's biodiversity assets.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>Numbers and total areas of protected areas are used as relevant indicators to this target.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<p>Some challenges of this target are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inadequate general knowledge. • Lack of accessible information. • Irregular exploitation of resources. • Inappropriate establishment of economic activities. • Ignoring the environmental considerations in sectoral and regional macro policies and programmes. • Weakness in executing the environmental acts, regulations and monitoring programs. • Lack of accepted environmental standards. • Lack of clear definition of land use and management. • Population concentration in several ecosystems. • Lack of clarity of policies. • Shortage of the experts in environmental protection and management. 	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
<p>While there is great variation in the percentage of biomes that are protected, Iran is using IUCN Protected Area categories (I-IV) (IUCN 1994). The national target is to increase this proportion to at least 10% of the national land area.</p>	

Box IV.

Target 1.2		Areas of particular importance to biodiversity protected	
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>There are several projects defined in the National Action Plan for conservation of Biodiversity in Iran. National targets relating to the global target also have been included in the NBSAP. Measures include the prioritization of conservation efforts, development of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Protected Areas network, effective management practices and the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems.</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		Defining some areas as agricultural reserves. Species richness of Agro –biodiversity in Iran has led to protect areas of particular importance to biodiversity in some regions, although the commercial farms tend to focus on few species.
b) Inland water	X		Promoting Iranian wetlands, covering about 1% of the country for the Ramsar “List of wetlands of international importance”
c) Marine and coastal	X		Developing various programmes and activities related to important water bodies which are located along the southern borders of Iran; the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman and the Caspian, the largest lake in the world, is located in the northern part of Iran.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Protecting and rehabilitation of rangelands which comprise some 55 % of the total land area of the country and covering more than 90 million hectares..
e) Forest	X		Establishing more than 100 reserves as Natural Forest Parks, Forest Reserves, and Natural Parks.
f) Mountain	X		Establishing several protected areas mostly in Alborz and Zagros regions
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 the measures so far indicated reflect instances of In-situ protection. Some developed programmes and activities of NAP have been focused on this target.

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

Major changes in land use should be undertaken in these environments. These environments, because of their huge surface area, support substantial parts of the biomass of Iran's biodiversity. National needs for development of remote areas make a big request to access to these lands.

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

Number and total area of PAs are used as relevant indicators.

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

Protected areas are under severe pressure, ranging from minimum to maximum destruction. There are demonstrable declines in the quality and quantity of habitats over vast areas caused by soil erosion, salinization and lowering water tables.

Soil erosion and the declining fertility and productivity of rangelands and arable lands, sedimentation in reservoir lakes, destructive floods (quadrupled during the last forty years), and destruction of natural habitats are the main components of the estimated losses.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

The national protected area system provides the core areas for biodiversity conservation. This system must be harmonized with conservation efforts in other areas and land-uses. In Iran, areas protected by the Department of Environment covers about 12 million hectares (about 8% of the land area). Limited tourism and research occurs in these areas.

In addition the Watershed, Forests and Rangelands Organization of the Ministry of Agricultural-Jihad manages more than 100 reserves with a total area of over 111,000 ha. as Natural Forest Parks, Forest Reserves, and Natural Parks. Furthermore, the other ministries (such as Ministry of Energy or Ministry of Defense) also manage a number of areas for their appropriate missions.

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	

c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
There are some initiatives started in order to reduce the decline of selected taxonomic groups.			
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		Preparing appropriate plans to restore, maintain or reduce the decline of various varieties of Rice, wheat, Pomegranates, Dates, domestic animals, threatened bony and caviar fishes
b) Inland water	X		Developing many projects to maintain and restore inland water fishes and Siberian crane
c) Marine and coastal	X		Marine turtles, Mangroves, Coral Reefs, some economically important fishery species have been stressed within developed programmes and projects.
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Asiatic cheetah and Hubara are two typical examples of measures taken by DoE.
e) Forest	X		FRWO in collaboration with some other national and international bodies is responsible for maintaining and restoring several endemic species.
f) Mountain	X		Central Alborz, Zagros, Arasbaran, Geno are two areas of highlight in recently developed plans for protection projects (maintain and restoration) in the country.
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.			
For each of the above mentioned areas there are several sectoral and cross-sectoral programs and projects running by different ministries in national or provincial level.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Mostly these programs or projects are active but some have financial or technical barriers.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
Number, total area covered, biomass, harvested products.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			

Lack of experiences; Inadequate financial resources; Limited Ex-situ collections and facilities; Lack of surveys.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Most of Iran is located in the Palaearctic realm and is considered the center of origin of many genetic resources of the world, including many of the original strains of commercially valuable plant species such as wheat, or medicinal and aromatic species.

The southwest has some Afro-tropical features, while the southeast has some species from the Indo-Malayan sub-tropical realm. Iranian habitats support some 8,200 species of plants (a conservative estimate), almost 1,900 of which are endemic. There are 12.4 million hectares of woodland, and some 10,000 hectares of Avicennia mangroves along the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman coasts. The Mangroves consists of 2 species of Avicenia marina and Rhizophora mucranat. Field studies confirm the presence of over 500 species of birds and 160 species of mammals.

Box VI .

Target 2.2	Status of threatened species improved		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
Trends of some populations show a recovery in some threatened species but many of them are still under pressure.			
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		Domestic rice
b) Inland water	X		Inland fishes
c) Marine and coastal	X		Integrated management of coastlines
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Plantation in rangelands
e) Forest	X		Selected areas mostly in the Caspian coastline

f) Mountain	X	Zagros
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?		
a) No		
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes		
Please provide details below.		
<p>NBSAP has several addresses to this target.</p>		
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.		
<p>During the last 40 years, at least 30% of Iran's deciduous temperate forests have been destroyed. Rangelands and marginal farmlands are vulnerable to desertification, which is being exacerbated by soil erosion, over-grazing and over-exploitation of marginal farming areas. Coastal habitats and water resources are being degraded by oil, industrial and agricultural pollution and over-fishing.</p>		
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.		
<p>Number and size of populations, protection level, species richness, endemism, number of red data species.</p>		
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.		
<p>Technical limitations as well as lack of trained experts are big challenges while financial barriers exist. Also, limited spatial data and limited data on micro-organisms and invertebrates seems to be important challenges.</p>		
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.		
<p>While extinction is a natural process, but the current rate of extinction in Iran is greater than typical extinction rate in the fossil record.</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.			
The NBSAP has incorporated this target in 4 th Biodiversity Strategy.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural	X		By the research centre on agricultural Genetics and also FAO/DIDAS project in national level
b) Inland water	X		By the Iranian Fisheries Research Institute
c) Marine and coastal	X		By the Marine Environment Bureau of DoE and also the Iranian Fisheries Research Institute
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		BY DoE and the Center on Deserts Studies affiliated to the University of Tehran
e) Forest	X		BY the Watershed, Forest and rangeland Organization affiliated to the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad
f) Mountain	X		Several universities and governmental institutes
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.			
Also, the NBSAP proposed development of models and approaches, which promote living landscapes and in-situ conservation, and the preservation of agro-biodiversity at species and genotype level as well as comprehensive Ex -situ genetic resources conservation.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
There is a National Committee working on Genetic Resource. A drafted program provides legal basis for ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources Bio-			

safety Guideline has also developed to ensure the safe transfer, handling and use of GMOs, especially focusing on safeguarding environment, biological diversity and socio-economic welfare, including trans-boundary movement. Initiatives are taken to conserve endemic variety of livestock. Some institutions have provision for research and promote genetic diversity but may not address directly the issue.

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

Under development under the Bio-safety framework Project.

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

Shortages of human resources and technical capacity, lack of financial resources.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Besides these activities, DoE also conducted several studies in line with traditional knowledge and rights of local communities in relation with genetic diversity.

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.			
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		Organic farms
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		Seasonal limiting fishing practices , costal management plans

d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Supporting the production of endemic plants' seeds
e) Forest	X		The national program for protection of forests
f) Mountain	X		Central Alborz and Zagros projects
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.			
Some targets correspond with Fisheries, Coastal, Forestry, Water Policy, etc...			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>For wildlife based activities, applicants give quotas to fulfill several requirements and responsibilities. For sport fishing licenses are issued while agricultural resources are in a market controlled through a semi-governmental system. Some important commercial plants are controlled using a permit system to avoid over-harvesting.</p> <p>Some Community Based Natural Resources Management programs being implemented to encourage the sustainable use of natural resources.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
No indicators have been set as yet.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of human and technical capacity, lack of financial resources			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
The convenient availability of energy derived from fossil fuels in the form of coal, oil, and natural gas energy has played a key role in the remarkable population explaining all over the country and also burning biomass fuel is now resulting to significantly over-exploit biodiversity.			

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			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
Some national targets are established in the 4th NDP which started from April 2005.			
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		Reduction of Pesticide and fertilizer applications
b) Inland water	X		River and groundwater management
c) Marine and coastal	X		Sturgeons and bony fishing ban in selected areas or in some seasons
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Strong control on land conversion
e) Forest	X		Ban on logging in several areas , no use of fuel-wood
f) Mountain	X		Hunting limitations and medicinal plants initiatives
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.			
It's noticed in the NBSAP and needs sectoral programs.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Agricultural Acts provide provision for controlling extraction of ground water and surface water as well as restrictions of fishing during breeding season. Projects to reduce tree felling, land conversion and hunting of wildlife.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Poverty, loss of traditional knowledge, lack of awareness, population pressure, unsustainable			

consumption and production patterns

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Because of the climatic diversity and genetic variety of plants in Iran, many improved agricultural plants are grown from imported varieties, which are susceptible to pests and diseases, resulting in excessive use of pesticides.

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			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established		X	
Please provide details below.			
<p>Trading biological components are controlling by several governmental institutes particularly by the enforcement of the Agricultural Quarantine Act.</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		Agricultural quarantines
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		Caviar program
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Hubara or hunting by-products
e) Forest	X		Ban of round-wood
f) Mountain	X		Controlling medicinal plants
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.			

There are specific programs or projects running by appropriate institutes to control import and export of biological components, plants and also live animals.

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

Since Iran is a signatory of CITES, follows CITES rules for all kind of trading of species

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

National targets have been incorporated in line with CITES rules into relevant sectoral strategies, plans and acts.

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

Lack of financial resources , Institutional weaknesses for enforcement and monitoring, lack of human capacity,

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XI .

Goal 5	Pressures from habitat loss, land use change and degradation, and unsustainable water use, reduced.		
Target 5.1	Rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats decreased		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
Several sectoral targets related to environmental change and threats to biodiversity, availability and access to, and promotion of exchange of biodiversity information have been developed.			
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		Control of land defragmentation, soil management plans, modern irrigation plans and recently

			developed plans to combat desertification
b) Inland water	X		Wetland management projects
c) Marine and coastal	X		Establishment of marine and coastal protected areas and Marine Coastal National Park
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Rehabilitation of degraded lands
e) Forest	X		Forest regeneration plans
f) Mountain	X		Mountain integrated management projects
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.			
There are some national and provincial specific programs and projects under development by appropriate institutes			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
Government of Islamic republic of Iran has undertaken a number of projects to halt the degradation of major ecosystems and initiate conservation efforts such as integrated fertilizer management project, irrigation, and inland water management by the ministry of energy, coastal management project, coastal and wetland biodiversity management projects, afforestation programs, mountain initiatives.			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
Total areas, more sectoral indicators are also developed.			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
Lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of technical capacity, lack of financial resources, lack of awareness,			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			
Development needs in different areas have pressure over natural habitats to convert them to agricultural, industrial or urban areas.			

Box XII.

Goal 6	Control threats from invasive alien species.		
Target 6.1	Pathways for major potential alien invasive species controlled		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>This issue is under consideration, but an integrated management plan is yet to be developed.</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		Agricultural quarantines
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal	X		Ballast water
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			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>Some quarantine system check illegal entry of alien species. However in some sectors such as aquaculture, there are some incentives that encourage culture of non-endemic species.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Some specific management plans for invasive species are under development.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			

number of species introduced

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

Lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of technical capacity, lack of financial resources,

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			X	
b) Yes, the same as the global target				
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established				
Please provide details below.				
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).				
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details	
a) Agricultural		X	Some measures to control grasshoppers populations	
b) Inland water		X		
c) Marine and coastal		X	Necessary measures to reduce Azola populations	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X		
e) Forest		X		
f) Mountain		X		
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?				
a) No			X	
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan				
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes				

Please provide details below.
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Box XIV.

Goal 7	Address challenges to biodiversity from climate change, and pollution.		
Target 7.1	Maintain and enhance resilience of the components of biodiversity to adapt to climate change		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
<p>Iran is preparing National Adaptation Plan of Action which will provide guidelines for adaptation in forestry, agriculture and biodiversity among other sectors.</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	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			

a) No	X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XV.

Target 7.2	Reduce pollution and its impacts on biodiversity		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>The National Environment Act' has indicated general commitment for reducing pollutions which have also effects on Biodiversity.</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		Control of pesticides and fertilizers
b) Inland water	X		Pollution control in rivers, dams and lakes
c) Marine and coastal	X		Ballast and sewage control
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Reduce of chemicals
e) Forest	X		Ban of dumping sites
f) Mountain	X		Upstream pollution control plans

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.	
Several sectoral targets correspond with fisheries, inland water, coastal zones, forestry, and environment activities	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
Regarding environment rules, pollutant industries must install wastewater treatment sites. Use of non-degradable polythene shopping bag is a big problem. Two-stroke vehicles are going to be replaced with four stroke vehicles to increase air quality in big cities. New program is under development on importation and use of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). CNG operated vehicles are subsidized. EIA is made mandatory for major development projects. Sometimes pollution dispersion capacity of inland waters becomes critical in the dry season due to changes in flow of water by neighbouring countries	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
Under development.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
Lack of information exchange on trans-boundary pollution load, lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of technical capacity, lack of financial resources.	
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.

Effective ecosystem management practices and ecosystems concerns integrated into 4th national development plan.

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 agro-biodiversity and restoration
b) Inland water	X		implementation of wetland management plans
c) Marine and coastal	X		conservation of critical ecosystems in the marine and coastal zones
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		reduce overgrazing and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems
e) Forest	X		reduced rates of habitat destruction
f) Mountain	X		conservation of mountain ecosystems through the network of protected 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

Please provide details below.

The target has been incorporated into the NBSAP.

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

Products from major agricultural lands are affected by upper stream development plans which already created serious and severe impacts on the ecosystem services and productivity of biological resources. It has affected the livelihoods of local communities. Withdrawn in upstream locations might result into further degradation of ecosystems.

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

To be developed

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

Lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of human and technical capacity for the management of ecosystems, financial barriers

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			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p>New partnership between several ministries and local people is now practiced and co-management in Protected Areas is in the initiation phase with a view to meeting the development and conservation need for the local community.</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		Private and traditional land ownership
b) Inland water	X		Special benefits for local people
c) Marine and coastal	X		Special rules for local people for open water fisheries
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Community based conservation efforts
e) Forest	X		Partnership between Forest Department and local people
f) Mountain	X		Co-management in Zagros
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.			

Poverty eradication is one of the major programs of the government and incorporated in the 4th National Development Plan. The NBSAP also addresses this target. Ecosystem services are necessary for the well-being and health of the nation. To provide life's basic needs, changes in ecosystem services can affect livelihoods, general income and population movements. Impacts on economic security and social relations have wide impacts on the human health.

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

A massive programme under the Zagros Project will provide the overall improvement of environment and supporting local livelihoods like community based cultivation of fruit trees and medicinal plants through local level initiative, the co-management in a Protected Area is introduced with a view to meeting the development and conservation need for the community and also the co-management plans for forestry with partnership between governmental departments and local people. Several programs and projects are on-going addressing at the issues like livelihood support, empowerment of Fishing Corporations that looks into livelihood issues and implication on the linkage between maintaining biological resources and local livelihoods.

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

Some indicators are proposed in the Project development phase of Zagros as well as other programs and ongoing projects.

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

Institutional weaknesses, lack of awareness, lack of financial resources, lack of inter-sectoral coordination, lack of human and technical capacity, low access to necessary data for proper analysis

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Several Community Based Natural Resources Management projects being implemented through various government policies as well as NGOs (mostly supported by GEF/SGP) aim to encourage the sustainable use of natural resources by combining resource conservation in some ways like free seed distribution for drought recovery or tree plantation programs.

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.			
<p>The same target is addressed in the 4th National Development 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		Integration of traditional practices into current practices
b) Inland water	X		Using traditional practices for storage and keeping water
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		Learning from traditional practices for protection of water resources in harsh conditions
e) Forest	X		Introducing traditional methods into conservation and management of forest
f) Mountain	X		Integration of traditional practices into conservation and management of mountain ecosystems
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>This target has been incorporated into the NBSAP addressed Sui generic mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge while Increased levels of community participation and use of indigenous knowledge systems in biological resource use and sustainable management practices are included in the sectoral objectives.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			

A multi Sectoral working group on Indigenous Knowledge is attempting to integrate IK into existing legislation and Intellectual Property Rights. By the time being, there is no law for the protection of knowledge or protecting IK but the issue is known and under consideration.

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

Some indicators are proposed in the need assessment phase of NBSAP.

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

Lack of a policy and law for the protection of traditional knowledge, uncoordinated approach to documentation of knowledge of communities in remote areas, lack of trained personnel, lack of understanding of the issue in this area is also a problem.

VII) Please provide any other relevant information.

Some protected areas in Iran which are internationally recognized within the framework of UNESCO/MAB (Man and Biosphere) program should preserve and generate natural and cultural values, through management that is scientifically correct, culturally creative and operationally sustainable. Some studies shows the patterns of relationship between biodiversity and cultural diversity in Iran. The significant point in this regard is that the roots of these links between biodiversity and human cultures are to be found at the local level and cultural values have been shaped by this relationship.

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	
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established	X
Please provide details below.	
<p>This target has been incorporated into the 4th National Development Plan and also incorporated in the inland water strategy, coastal management policy, forest and rangeland sectors, etc....</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		encouraging the use of local and endemic varieties and breeds of livestock and crops
b) Inland water	X		promoting indigenous fishing practices
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land	X		community participation in rangeland management and planning
e) Forest	X		Community based plans for reforestation
f) Mountain	X		promoting indigenous medicinal plants farming and Tourism focusing on socio-cultural practices
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan		X	
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
<p>The NBSAP covers this target. NBSAP proposes promotion of use of traditional knowledge for conservation, use and protection of the local communities' intellectual property rights.</p>			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
<p>Protection of traditional knowledge of local communities is quite low but several initiatives started by the Department of the Environment and the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad. A few NGOs are working on the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.</p>			
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.			
<p>No indicators are developed.</p>			
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.			
<p>Lack of a policy and law, lack of willing for documentation of traditional knowledge.</p>			
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.			

Department of Tourism and Cultural Heritage has several projects are underway for developing and promoting eco -tourism through protecting and supporting culture and traditions of the indigenous communities.

DoE has drafted Biodiversity and Community Knowledge Protection program in the Zagros Project to provide legal basis for ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources and associated indigenous and local knowledge. The draft has an objective to protect and support the rights, knowledge, innovations and practices of local and indigenous communities.

Box XX.

Goal 10	Ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.		
Target 10.1	All transfers of genetic resources are in line with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other applicable agreements		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Biosafety Guidelines and National Biosafety Framework are drafted.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box XXI .

Target 10.2	Benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources shared with the countries providing such resources		
I) National target: Has a national target been established corresponding to the global target above?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, the same as the global target			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			
Please provide details below.			
Biosafety Guidelines and National Biosafety Framework are drafted.			
II) National targets for specific programmes of work: If such national target(s) ha(s)(ve) been established, please indicate here, and give further details in the box(es).			
Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			

c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes	
Please provide details below.	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	

Box 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			
c) Yes, one or more specific national targets have been established			X
Please provide details below.			
<p style="color: blue;">Relevant provision included in the 4th NDP.</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	
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>Relevant provisions are recommended in the NBSAP as well as sectoral programs in order to secure sustainable financial resources.</p>	
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.	
<p>Review of existing financing mechanisms and the development of funding strategy for implementation of the NBSAP calls for the strengthening of biodiversity funding mechanisms and communication of funding priorities to external donors.</p>	
V) Please provide information on indicators used in relation to this target.	
<p>Some indicators are proposed in the need assessment phase of NBSAP.</p>	
VI) Please provide information on challenges in implementation of this target.	
<p>N/A</p>	
VII) Please provide any other relevant information.	
<p></p>	

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

Programme of work	Yes	No	Details
a) Agricultural		X	
b) Inland water		X	
c) Marine and coastal		X	
d) Dry and subhumid land		X	
e) Forest		X	
f) Mountain		X	
III) Has the global or national target been incorporated into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?			
a) No			X
b) Yes, into national biodiversity strategy and action plan			
c) Yes, into sectoral strategies, plans and programmes			
Please provide details below.			
IV) Please provide information on current status and trends in relation to this target.			
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	
<p style="color: blue;">Several universities and institutes are collecting and maintaining and also developing these lists and make it accessible somehow.</p>	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
<p style="color: blue;">This is incorporated in the NBSAP as well as some sectoral plans</p>	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
<p style="color: blue;">Various initiatives are taken to collect and register plant species of the country. These lists are currently accessible for scientists and relevant governmental institutes.</p>	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
<p style="color: blue;">Since the NBSAP has recently been completed and its implementation started from April 2005, so no implementation has taken place.</p>	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	

Some projects are currently ongoing, for example through the National Museum of Natural History (MMTT), University of Tehran and National Botanic Garden. MMTT is collecting specimens and will be producing a national checklist based on existing herbarium specimens. The Ministry of Agricultural Jihad is also carrying out some work on wild relatives of crop species while the Crops Seed Bank Project is collecting wild plants that are either endangered, endemic or threatened.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of financial and human capacity for survey of Flora is the main constraint

VII) Any other relevant information

Most of Iran is located in the Palearctic realm and is considered the center of origin of many genetic resources of the world, including many of the original strains of commercially valuable plant species such as wheat, or medicinal and aromatic species. The southwest has some Afro-tropical features, while the southeast has some species from the Indo-Malayan sub-tropical realm. Iranian habitats support some 8,200 species of plants (a conservative estimate), almost 1,900 of which are endemic.

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

This target has been incorporated into the NBSAP as well as some other sectoral programs.

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 NBSAP sets a target to establish the conservation status for all major animal (wildlife) and plant taxa in Iran.

III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
A preliminary assessment of plant species has been done by MMTT in 8 provinces so far.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
A Red Book on status of threatened floral species of Iran published by National Botanic Garden.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
Some Iranian encyclopaedias of flora are published.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
lack of technical and human capacity, lack of financial resources	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXVI.

Target 3. Development of models with protocols for plant conservation and sustainable use, based on research and practical experience.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
While this specific target has not been established or incorporated into any national targets, the NBSAP includes some proposed actions in order to support and promote in-situ and ex-situ conservation activities for rare, threatened and endemic species as well as key animal and plant species with commercial value.	
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)	
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 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	
Its considered in the NBSAP and 4th National development Plan	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X
b) No	
Please specify	
NBSAP has several proposed actions to support a comprehensive protected area network to conserve ecosystems and species. It also identifies the need for a comprehensive protected area network to conserve ecosystems and species; this includes fauna and flora.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	

According to the IUCN guidelines on Protected Areas, the protected area system in Iran provides the core areas for biodiversity conservation. This system is not sufficient in itself for long-term conservation, and must be harmonized with conservation efforts in other areas and land-uses.

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

In Iran, areas protected by Department of the Environment cover 12 million hectares (about 8% of the land area). Department of the Environment's goal is to increase this proportion to 10% of the national land area.

Iran established a national target of preserving 10% forest areas to be conserved as protected area and total forest coverage of the country will be increased.

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

A review of current national and regional land management systems is running for the rehabilitation of restoration or degraded ecosystems and habitats.

VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target

Lack of nationally agreed eco-regions, lack of financial resources, lack of technical capacity

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

Some initiatives are running; for example on the certain crop varieties in academic institutions, but there is no exact measurable target in place.

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)
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 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	X
b) No	
Please specify	
Many activities and present practices support the target but they are not addressed directly to the above target.	
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)	
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	
<p>Current activities and practices support the target but may not address the target. Iranian habitats support some 8,200 species of plants (a conservative estimate), almost 500 species of birds and 160 species of mammals and 160 species of mammals and more than 1000 species of fishes.</p>	
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)	
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	
<p>Although several activities have been directed towards establishment of natural history museums, seed and gene banks, botanical gardens, wildlife breeding centers and animal safe habitats, herbaria and microbial collection centers. These centers have been established in conjunction with in-situ practices to support existing populations, regardless of their size. Ongoing research provides the basic knowledge required on endangered, disadvantaged and sensitive species.</p> <p>Almost all such centers have been established by the governmental sector, and different organizations are charged with the well-being of various groups of organisms. For example, the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad deals with the affairs related to crop and fruit plants and breeding of silkworms; responsible for maintaining forests, rangelands, poultry and livestock, fishery and honey bees; and the Department of the Environment looks after wild species of animals, birds (endangered species in particular) and non-commercial marine species.</p>	
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)	
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 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	
<p>Many actions are necessary because of the rich and diverse, but fragile ecosystems of Iran. Collecting and preserving of seeds, planting and maintaining of rare plant species, developing the advanced techniques of seeding, testing adaptation capacities of seeds, hybridization of plant and animal species and microbial genetic engineering are only a few of the recognized practical experiments.</p>	
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)	
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 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	
But some activities (for example in the Caspian Sea) were undertaken to control certain species but The subject has not been well studied in the country.	
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)	
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 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	
<p>While Iran is a member of CITES and taking care of its guidelines, no target has yet been established but in the interim, wild and endangered flora, are protected by several institutes via various legal instruments and regulations.</p>	
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)	
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 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	X
b) No	
Please specify	

The target has been incorporated into the NBSAP for determining the availability and distribution of agro-biodiversity in Iran with approaches which promote a living landscape and in-situ preservation at species levels.

II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	
<p>Although a review of current national land management systems and land uses in terms of effectiveness in biodiversity conservation is in place to establish a network of community based activities using indigenous species.</p>	
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)	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
VII) Any other relevant information	

Box XXXVI.

Target 13. The decline of plant resources, and associated indigenous and local knowledge, innovations and practices that support sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care, halted.	
I) Has your country established national target corresponding to the above global target?	
a) Yes	
b) No	X
Please specify	

Some community based natural resources management programs being implemented through various government policies or supported by GEF/SGP aim to encourage the sustainable use of natural resources by combining resources conservation and utilization of such products. Several plants with commercial potential are controlled using a permit system; still many of them are exploited at a significant level and over-harvesting is unlikely.

Crop species is threatened by factors such as drought, free planting programs or seed distribution for drought recovery, which is usually characterized by exotic seed, lack of organized sources of traditional seeds.

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)	
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 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	
The target is considered in the NBSAP and also in the 4th National Development Plan	
II) Has your country incorporated the above global or national target into relevant plans, programmes and strategies?	
a) Yes	X

b) No	
Please specify	
Development and implementation of a national biodiversity awareness program aimed at all levels target groups.	
III) Current status (please indicate current status related to this target)	
Crop agricultural biodiversity is threatened by some environmental factors such as drought. Several educational programs are undertaken to reduce negative effects of this phenomenon.	
IV) Measures taken to achieve target (please indicate activities, legislative measures and other steps taken with a view to achieve the target)	
Some universities and institutes establish the medicinal plant gardens to encourage further development of knowledge and skills associated with the local use of medicinal plants.	
V) Progress made towards target (please specify indicators used to monitor progress towards the target)	
The NBSAP addresses this target through strengthen support to Community Based Natural Resources Management programs, Community Property Regimes including access, integrate poverty alleviation measures, develop community capacity to utilize natural resources in income generating activities, improve availability of traditional and improved seed varieties.	
VI) Constraints to achieving progress towards the target	
Lack of general awareness, Institutional weaknesses, Lack of human capacity and Financial resources.	
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	

Established targets are not addressing the target but are in line with same objectives.	
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)	
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 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	
National Museum for Natural History (MMTT) has developed several activities in at least 8 provinces.	
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)	

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 XL.

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

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

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	X
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	X
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	X
c) Yes, including providing support to other Parties	

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

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.

Because of some conflicts of interests in trans-boundary issues with neighbour countries establishing the ecosystem approach seems to be complicated in practice. The technical will to such an approach is constrained by politico-administrative challenges, methodological shortcomings and financial deficits, as well.

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	X
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	

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

Iran has committed to start and follow up various activities, in order to achieve successful implementation of ecosystem approach. To realize this, some biodiversity related projects are under implementation, which is supported by technical and financial assistance of international community. One of the main components of such projects has been promotion of ecosystem approach by using exchange of information and expertise, capacity-building, transfer of technology and awareness rising.

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	X
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.

Since, the progress to be made in management orientations toward ecosystem approach is subject to some partial outcomes and experiences gained by implementation of some international projects within the country, the ideas to develop the required institutions are not

matured. It seems the lessons learned by ongoing activities and creating an appropriate pathway to the concerned decision-makers can highly influence policy making process to this purpose.

C. ARTICLES OF THE CONVENTION

Article 5 – Cooperation

9. **?** Is your country actively cooperating with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

a) No	
b) Yes, bilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
c) Yes, multilateral cooperation (please give details below)	X
d) Yes, regional and/or sub-regional cooperation (please give details below)	X
e) Yes, other forms of cooperation (please give details below)	X

Further comments on cooperation with other Parties in respect of areas beyond national jurisdiction for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Iran has joined many international agreements related to Environmental issues, through which Iran enhances its capacity and plays a more active role in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity at national-regional levels.

Following a scientific and technical co-operation agreement signed between the governments of Iran and the former Soviet Union (1971), the conclusive bilateral meetings were held to discuss problems and find solutions to the environmental problems of the Caspian. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Caspian littoral republics and Iran have held ongoing discussions on the protections of the Caspian environment and agreed on the Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP).

For bilateral cooperation, the biodiversity issues are introduced in common projects within bilateral Memoranda of Understanding signed between I.R. Iran & more than 30 countries.

Also, I.R, Iran through Department of the Environment (DOE) is committed to follow several multilateral cooperation, in which DOE projects with GEF, UNDP, UNEP and World Bank, are implementing various projects:

- UNDP-GEF Enabling projects on Development of National Bio-safety Framework of Iran;
- Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah and its Habitats;
- The Project for Protection of Wetlands In Iran;
- Biodiversity Protection Project in the Zagros Mountain Ecosystems (Study & Projecting Phase);
- Development Project of the Wetland regions & Flight Path Networks for the Protection of the Siberian Crane and other Water Fowl in Asia;
- Protection of Gomishan Wetland Project (finished);
- Ramsar Wetland Protection (small-grant fund);

▪ Protection of Harra (Mangrove) Forests Project (finished);

A regional convention for co-operation to protect and improve coastal zones and the Marine Environment (ROPME, 24 April 1978) was approved by Iranian parliament. Therefore, the proceedings of convention are a domestic as well as an external obligation for the Government and related organizations, for the purpose of protecting marine environment in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

Iran-ECO Biodiversity Project has been approved by ECO ministerial Meeting in Istanbul, October 2004 (10 Members States of Economic Cooperation Organization including: IR. of Iran, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Armenia).

10. Is your country working with other Parties to develop regional, sub-regional 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, sub-regional or bioregional mechanisms and networks to support implementation of the Convention.

Although the existing mechanisms have not been developed to support implementation of the Convention at regional, sub-regional or bioregional levels, Iranian Government is looking for promoting his environmental cooperation with international community being conducted in the framework of Biodiversity matters.

As a concrete example, a protocol on marine Biodiversity project has been recently proposed by Iran and approved by ECO (10 above mentioned Member States of Economic Cooperation Organization) Ministerial Meeting in Istanbul (October 2004). At the same time, several projects have been or still are being implemented under the Caspian Environment Program (CEP).

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	X
c) Yes, some steps are being taken (please specify below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive steps are being taken (please specify below)	

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

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	
c) Yes, some strategies, plans and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	X
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.

Within the BSAP activity, I.R Iran has drafted and is following 4 overall strategies and 26 action plans to achieve three objectives of the Convention.

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	
c) No, but measurable targets are in advanced stages of development	X
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.

Further developments on NAP have outlined some modifications according strategic management principles. Some of them are included in 4th National Development Plan and the process of developing measurable targets have not yet accomplished.

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.	
<p>As mentioned in above, by applying the strategic management principles to developing NAP, all proposed plans are prioritized.</p>	

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)	
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.	
<p>Through the 4th National Development Plan and addressing to the approved Strategies and Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of Biodiversity, the Government intends to encourage other sectors (e.g. agriculture, industry and energy) to respect and promote three objectives of the Convention.</p>	

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	
(b) Conservation, sustainable use and/or restoration of migratory species' habitats, including protected areas	<p>A part from the actions which are indirectly related to do this, one action directly focuses on "development of the needed corridors to facilitate the migration of migratory species within the protected areas". In this regard, some projects with international cooperation are being implemented.</p>

(c) Minimizing or eliminating barriers or obstacles to migration	
(d) Research and monitoring for migratory species	
(e) Transboundary movement	
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>By now, several programmed activities in energy sector, hydrological resources and other sectors have been developed and their implementation will be followed by the execution of national strategies for Climate Change.</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	X
c) Yes, relevant mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
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>Negotiations and early contacts have been started to establish domestic coordination of commitments in this regard and it seems that after finalization of formulated measures, they will be realized.</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.

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.

Traditionally, more programmes on species and ecosystems are prepared. Although, some studies have been done to identify biological diversity at the genetic level, but their weight is lower than two other levels.

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.

There are some minimal activities to identify and monitor the existing ecosystem and genetic components of the Biological Diversity in the country.

With regard to species level, 4 species among mammals (more than 90% coverage) one bird species (more than 90% coverage) and 2 species of reptiles (more than 60% of coverage) are identifies.

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)	X
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.	
<p>Since the last decade, several monitoring activities for major ecosystems, species and genetic resources have been developed and followed by relevant bodies inside the country. In some cases, there are more experiences relevant to the Climate Change issues, invasive alien species implications, problems raised by pollution, degradation/land use changes and over-exploitation or unsustainable use of biodiversity resources, and it seems the existing monitoring activities may not be systematic to a large extent.</p>	

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.	

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

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.	
In the 4 th National Development Plan, the issue of identification of potential indicators has been raised and one activity is programmed to do this for coming 5 years.	

Box XLIII.

<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.

Decisions on Taxonomy

24.? Has your country developed a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	X
b) No, but a plan is under development	
c) Yes, a plan is in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, reports on implementation available (please provide details below)	
Further information on a plan to implement the suggested actions as annexed to decision IV/1.	

25.? Is your country investing on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections? (decision IV/1)	
a) No	
b) Yes (please provide details below)	X
Further information on investment on a long-term basis in the development of appropriate infrastructure for your national taxonomic collections.	
Iranian academic institutions have various plans to develop the required infrastructure and necessary capacity in human and technical instruments.	

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>Main research centers and universities of the country have some training programmes to build the required capacity on taxonomy.</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.	
<p>Existing collaborative programmes are in early stages of development.</p>	

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.

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.

Capacities:

- High Potential capacity of academic institution (Universities, Research Centers) within the country in term of their long experience,
- Considerable human and technical capacity scattered in different geographic locations of the country,

Needs (in terms of in-situ and ex-situ conservation):

- Lack of financial resources to acquire modern technologies,
- Insufficient human resources (professionals: researchers, technicians, skilled workers etc.),
- Weakness in the exchange of expertise with other specialized international institutions.
- Shortages in the administrative facilities.

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	
b) Yes, relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some activities are being undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	x
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.

In recent years, the specialized and technical cooperation of domestic institutions (DoE, National Museum for Natural Environment, Agricultural Researches Institute, Forest and Rangelands Research Institute in line with other academic organs) with other international organizations have been accelerated in the field of taxonomic identification.

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

a) No	X
b) Yes, for forest biodiversity (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, for marine and coastal biodiversity (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, for dry and sub-humid lands (please provide details below)	
e) Yes, for inland waters biodiversity (please provide details below)	
f) Yes, for mountain biodiversity (please provide details below)	
g) Yes, for protected areas (please provide details below)	
h) Yes, for agricultural biodiversity (please provide details below)	
i) Yes, for island biodiversity (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the development of taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.	
<p>Some specialized institutions within the country traditionally are responsible to undertake relevant taxonomic studies of various species from fauna and flora. To do this, main forest ecosystems, rangelands, dry and sub-humid lands, inland waters are considered. It is important to note that, such activities are not entitled as taxonomic support for the implementation of the programmes of work under the Convention.</p>	

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.	
<p>As mentioned in above.</p>	

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	X
c) Yes, some measures undertaken (please provide details below)	
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.	
<p>Recently the developed actions are looking for reduction of unsustainable development and promotion of sustainable use. By developing a new vision toward Protected Areas Network in the country, any human intervention, including utilization of resources in national parks is not authorized. Rural use and Development activities in wildlife refuges are limited to some particular aspects.</p>	

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.	
<p>To protect some recognized threatened species and their populations (e.g. <i>Salmona</i>, <i>Asynonyu jubatus</i>, <i>Garella subgutturosa</i>, <i>Ovis orientalis</i>), regulatory provisions have been developed to be implemented at national. Main mechanisms of such provisions include penalties and special permits.</p>	

35. ? On Article 8(l), does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, but relevant processes and categories of activities being identified	
c) Yes, to a limited extent (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, to a significant extent (please provide details below)	

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

To regulate and manage processes having significant adverse effects on biodiversity, there are a series of measures taken by DoE and approved by High Council for Protection of Environment supported by article 105 of the Third National Development Plan's Law.

In this regard, 19 EIT projects have been undertaking at national level to reduce environmental impacts of regional development activities 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.

Because of the important role that protected area and reserve systems play in providing the core areas for biodiversity conservation, Department of the Environment has planned a national goal to increase their proportion to 10% of the national land area. It is prioritized to make the reserve system Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) in regard to Iran's biodiversity assets. Limited tourism and research occurs in these areas.

Beside that, increasing the number of wildlife population in PAS is programmed as a national target. Some investigations specifically focusing on flora coverage are going to be developed by determining measurable targets and indicators.

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	X
c) Yes, limited actions taken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on actions taken to establish or eXpand protected areas.	

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)	X
e) Yes, significant actions taken (please provide details below)	
Further comments on actions taken to address the under representation of marine and inland water ecosystems in the existing national or regional systems of protected areas.	
<p>In the existing national systems of protected areas, some of the valuable marine and inland water ecosystems are represented. As a concrete example, a large coastal Protected Area and Biosphere Reserve of Mangrove forests (<i>Avicennia</i>) have been established. In addition, 22 wetlands are protected and registered as Ramsar Sites of international significance.</p> <p>In recent years, Iranian government has been endeavoured to expand his existing PA system to the outside of national borders by inviting neighbour countries to establish trans-boundary PA system. Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), ROPME and CEP are the main partners to achieve this goal.</p>	

39. Has your country identified and implemented practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, including policy, planning and other measures? (decision VII/28)	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some steps identified and implemented (please provide details below)	X
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.

To identify and implement practical steps for improving the integration of protected areas into broader land and seascapes, some actions are being taken by DoE. Recently, the Integrated Management Plans for PAs are under preparation or Implementation of River Management Plan for some important river basins of the country is the other action in this regard. The main objective of such plans is reviewing traditional ways and methods of management to explore new ones.

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	X
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.

Traditionally, in EIA guidelines which are applied to 19 types of development activities and projects at national level, the issue of impacts on PAs is considered in a general terms of view. DoE is intended to prepare a new guidelines specific to assess impacts on PAs of the country.

41. Has your country identified legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas? (decision VII/28)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant work is under way	
c) Yes, some gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below))	X
d) Yes, many gaps and barriers identified (please provide details below)	

Further comments on identification of legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of protected areas.

According the past and current experiences, some identifies legislative and institutional gaps and barriers that impede effective establishment and management of PAs are as following:

- Socio-economic pressures on natural areas through reliance of local communities to

resources based incomes in terms of mining, over-exploitation of natural resources (fishery activities, over-grazing in rangelands, and encroachments ,...),

- Undetermined property and access rights of local communities to public lands and obscurities in land tenure regimes,
- Financial shortcomings to implement new management approaches,
- Lack of sufficient personnel and updated knowledge to remove the existing management issues.

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	X
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	X
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	X
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.

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

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

To a very limited extent, the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats and other species by the introduction of alien species like Azola in Anzali Wetland, Notria in Caspian forests and some fishes of dam reservoirs and lakes have been assessed.

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)	X
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.	
<p>To prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate some alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species in the country, different measures are in place. Also, responsible bodies (e.g. DoE) are collaborating in the development of projects at national, regional and sub-regional levels to address the issue of alien species. Application of CITES requirements, signing bilateral agreements with other relevant organizations like “National Fisheries Organizations” and Custom offices in the airports and ports can be mentioned in this regard.</p>	

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	X
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	X
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.	

50. Has your country identified national needs and priorities for the implementation of the Guiding Principles? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	X
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)
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a) No	X
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	X
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.	
<p>By the time being, related national institutions have drafted some policies and carried out various studies to review existing shortcomings in national policies and legislations. These activities are not directly related to Guiding Principles.</p>	

53. Is your country enhancing cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species? (decision VI/23)	
a) No	
b) No, but potential coordination mechanisms are under consideration	X
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on cooperation between various sectors.	
<p>It is expected that by implementation of NAP for conservation of Biodiversity, the DoE will be able to enhance cooperation between various sectors in order to improve prevention, early detection, eradication and/or control of invasive alien species</p>	

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	X

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.	
As a common policy and an important matter of concern, the Government tries to address the threats of alien species, as in formal negotiation agenda with his trading partners and neighbouring countries. Although, facilitating the exchange of information has been highlighted during such discussions, still the idea of executing framework is not realized.	

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	X
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	X
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.

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(j) - Traditional knowledge and related provisions

GURTS

57. Has your country created and developed capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities, and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to genetic use restriction technologies?

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

Further comments on capacity-building programmes to involve and enable smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to GURTs.

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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	X
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.

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Within the 4th National Development Plan and in line with NAP, some concrete activities and projects are being programmed to support 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.

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	X
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	X
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	X
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.	
<p style="color: blue;">Since the establishment of Urban and Rural Council Elections in 1999, the role of local communities has been strengthened and their involvement in decision-making processes is now, more secured. Provided financial and administrative supports from Ministry of Agricultural Jihad in establishing some research centers to promote public awareness about the traditional knowledge can be considered as an important measure to enhance 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.</p>	

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	X
c) Yes, some mechanisms, guidelines and legislation are in place (please provide details below)	

Further information on the mechanisms, guidelines and legislation developed.

At national and local levels, some measures are in place 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, sub-regional, national and local levels. Ministry of Agricultural Jihad (MoAJ) is collaborating with some other research and academic institutes to develop required mechanisms, guidelines and appropriate legislation. It is important to note that such activities are not entitled directly to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. They are related to natural resources and rural populations in general.

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	X
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.

Developing national mechanisms is not directly influenced by POW. There are several measures which have traditionally been running since the past years in line with the goal of promoting the full and effective participation of women of indigenous and local communities in all development activities.

Support to implementation

64. Has your country established national, subregional and/or regional indigenous and local community biodiversity advisory committees?

a) No	X
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	X
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	X
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	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 adopted for the <i>ex-situ</i> conservation of components of biodiversity native to your country and originating outside your country.	

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>Some measures are adopted for the reintroduction of threatened species (mammals e.g. <i>Dama mesopotamica</i>, and birds e.g. <i>Hubara</i>, and resealing fingerling fishes particularly <i>Strogen</i>s in the Caspian Sea into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions.</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>Iran has developed national plans 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 and subject to periodic revision. The government has established educational and research centres and has undertaken affirmative actions across the country throughout the recent decades. These actions were necessary because of the rich and diverse, but fragile ecosystems of Iran. Collecting and preserving of seeds, planting and maintenance of rare plant species, developing advanced techniques of seeding, testing capacities of seeds, hybridization of plant and animal species and microbial genetic engineering are only a few of the recognized practical experiments directed in Iran towards <i>ex-situ</i> conservation.</p> <p>These activities have been directed towards establishment of natural history museums, seed and gene banks, botanical gardens, wildlife breeding centers and animal safe habitats, herbaria and microbial collection centers. These centers have been established in conjunction with <i>in-situ</i> practices to support existing populations, regardless of their size. Ongoing research provides the basic knowledge required on endangered, depleted and sensitive species.</p>	

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	
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.

According some regulations proposed by DoE and approved by High Council for Protection of Environment, undertaking EIA projects for all major development plans is a legal obligation. This provides an opportunity to include conservation and sustainable use of biological resources concerns in national decisions to be made by other organizations. Persuasion of main economic and industrial actors to establish environmentally sound activities and instigation of them to get related standards and certificates might be considered as a very important step in this regard.

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.

Exigency for Environmental Impact Assessments of all large scale projects, instigation of Forest and Rangeland Organization to respect sustainable forest harvesting rules, financial support to reduce reliance of local and rural communities to fuel woods by providing them subsidized fossil fuels, promoting the sustainable fishery activities,... are some of the measures

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

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.	

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	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biodiversity has been reduced.	

74. ? Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)

a) No	
b) No, but assessment of potential indicators and incentive measures is under way	X
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	X

c) Yes, some policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on sustainable use programmes and policies.	

76. ? Has your country developed or explored mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity? (decision V/24)	
a) No	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	
c) Yes, mechanisms are in place (please describe below)	X
Further comments on the development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity.	
<p>Regarding development of mechanisms to involve the private sector in initiatives on the sustainable use of biodiversity, the following points could be raised: for a few components of biodiversity resources (e.g. forest products, rangelands, aquatic resources), the government is endeavoured to mobilize private sectors, including local communities, to establish small firms or cooperatives. These recently developed enterprises asked to respect the principles and implement procedures drafted in management plans. Some financial credits and loans to acquire needed technologies are provided to them in return for.</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	X
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.	

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	
b) No, but mechanisms are under development	X
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>LR Iran has prioritized its tourism with an emphasis on cultural values. Efforts are underway to provide plans for eco-tourism. The efforts of the government (Iran Touring and Tourism Organization) are directed towards ways of promoting tourism without sacrificing cultural and environmental values. It seems that properly organized eco-tourism has the potential to promote a new area of economic growth and it can assist the society in recognizing the value of better protection and enhancement of Iran's biodiversity.</p>	

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	X
b) No, but programmes are under development	
c) Yes, programmes are in place (please describe below)	
Further comments on educational and training programmes provided to tourism operators.	

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

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.

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.

[Within the 4th National Development Plan and in line with NAP, some programmes are](#)

established to identify and adopt economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity. Some of the main measures to be established by the 4th NDP are as follows:

- Iranian Government is bound to acquire valid estimations on ecosystem goods and services values and environmental degradation costs of major development plans in the country. These evaluations can be considered as important incentive measures and are going to be legalized in second phase.
- In agricultural sector, various measures are being developed to reduce overuse and consumption of organic fertilizers and pesticides. Promotion of biological controls and sustainable agricultural practices are requested.
- Promoting private sector involvement and initiatives in conserving the biodiversity, DOE has considered awards such as National Green Prize, ISO 14001 and Environmental honouree medal.
- With regard to other fields, like solid residuals and waste materials (recycling), air, water and soil pollutions (recovery and rehabilitation programmes), marine and coastal zones pollution (application of new regulations) etc., several being developed.

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	
b) No, but relevant mechanisms are under development	X
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.

According the 4th National Development Plan, the Government is responsible to support (financially and technically) undertaking valuation studies for natural ecosystems of the country to demonstrate the economic values of market and non-market services of ecosystems. Having such values, they will be used to develop 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.

85. ? Has your country developed training and capacity-building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives? (decision III/18)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	X
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.	
Some relevant programmes are being considered to review the proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures as contained in Annex I.	

87. Has your country made any progress in removing or mitigating policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (decision VII/18)	
a) No	
b) No, but identification of such policies and practices is under way	
c) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified but not entirely removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, relevant policies and practices identified and removed or mitigated (please provide details below)	
Further information on perverse incentives identified and/or removed or mitigated.	
It must be noted that a comprehensive system for incentive measures at different levels is not in place yet. Meanwhile some measures to identify, remove and/or mitigate policies or practices that generate perverse incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are underway.	

Box L.

<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 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.

Since, several universities are experienced in holding formal education and training activities related to natural and environmental sciences, reorientation of their scientific and technical education and training programmes are under development for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components.

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.

To a limited extent, some of the existing financial resources of related national organizations are allocated to promote and encourage researches which contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

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.

Existing bodies, including academic institutions and other relevant organizations in I .R. of Iran are endeavoured to promote and cooperate on the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. Forest and rangeland management plans and agricultural activities are the main pioneers in this regard.

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.

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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	
b) No, but a CEPA strategy is under development	X
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.

To a limited extent, some activities are being implemented to promote public participation in support of the Convention. Through the 4th NDP, it is expected that a CEPA strategy to be developed and implemented.

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

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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.	
<p>Critical biodiversity-related issues, with a highlight on natural environment degradation including forests and river basins deteriorations, progressed desertification and the problems raised by water and air pollution are being advertised to sensitize and promote the public awareness. The press (local, provincial and national newspapers and magazines), media (radio and TV broadcasts) and also public relations are considered and used as the main communication networks in this regards.</p>	

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.	
<p>Some local organization and administration bodies, as well as NGOs use the existing communication networks (local newspapers and provincial TV and radio programmes), to promote the communication, education and public awareness of biodiversity for the local societies.</p>	

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	X
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.	

96. Has your country developed adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness?	
a) No	
b) No, but some programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes are being implemented (please provide details below)	X
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.	
<p>With regard to the development of adequate capacity to deliver initiatives on communication, education and public awareness, it should be noted that educational programmes in Iran have targeted two major groups of audience:</p> <p>(a) Special training programmes leading to official university degrees such as BSc, MSc and PhD</p> <p>(b) General public awareness programmes, carried out by the NGOs and the media (such as Radio, Television and Press).</p> <p>Fortunately, the role of the media in enlightening the public has been recognized by the authorities in a certain degree and such tools have been exploited to mobilize the public to help to care for their environment. Statistics indicate that radio has been quite effective in conveying the environmental messages to the public. There are now 245 radio receivers for every 1000 persons. Television has got a massive 86.5% coverage. There is now a growing cooperation between Department of the Environment and the Television stations resulting in programmes on the various aspects of the environment.</p>	

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.	
<p>To a limited extent, Iran is promoting some cooperation and exchange programmes for biodiversity education and awareness at the national and international levels. Training courses undertaken by World Bank, UNITAR and some other target oriented short courses can be mentioned in this regard.</p>	

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.	
<p>Undertaking CEPA activities for implementation of cross-cutting issues and thematic programmes of work adopted under the Convention in the country are not classified under a specific CEPA strategy. For example, the World Bank is going to hold a workshop on Environmental Degradation Cost methods.</p>	

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.	
<p>Since, principal key actors and stakeholders who might be interested to 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 are mostly governmental bodies, so provided supports will be in line with such initiatives.</p>	

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	X
c) Yes, some programmes developed and activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes developed and many activities undertaken for this purpose (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the communication of the various elements of the 2010 biodiversity target and the establishment of linkages to the Decade on Education for Sustainable Development.	

Box LII .

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

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

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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.

According the Article 105 of 3rd National Development Plan Law, EIAs are legalized.

102. ? On Article 14.1(b), has your country developed mechanisms to ensure that due consideration is given to the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that

are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	
c) No, but mechanisms are in advanced stages of development	X
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.	

103. ? On Article 14.1(c), is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction?	
a) No	
b) No, but assessment of options is in progress	
c) Yes, some completed, others in progress (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biodiversity outside your country's jurisdiction.	
<p>In 2003, based on MOU between EIA bureau and ECE for Environmental Impact Assessment in Trans-boundary Context, a bilateral programme has been started. This agreement is being implemented under EIA Convention (ESPOO).</p>	

104. ? On Article 14.1(d), has your country put mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your territory to biological diversity in the territory of other Parties or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction?	
a) No	
b) No, mechanisms are still in early stages of development	X
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.

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 | X |
| 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.

Within the classical procedures of EIA, some components of biodiversity and its related issues are being considered. But application of Guidelines for Incorporating Biodiversity-related Issues into Environment-Impact-Assessment Legislation or Processes and in Strategic Impact Assessment is under consideration. To facilitate this, UNDP Country-Office is supporting a joint project with DoE to build the required capacity for implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

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 | X |
| b) Yes (please specify the measures) | |

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

According the EIA Law, major projects require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to evaluate the degree of damage inflicted on the environment, and the ways to reduce, eliminate or remedy these impacts. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is in the process of formalizing and extension of the EIA. Biodiversity is one of the major factors, which has to be fully considered and studied in the process. Special attention must be paid to the protection of natural ecosystems, such as forests and habitats of wildlife. The concept of “no net loss” of biodiversity assets will be implemented in development assessments and approvals. Projects needing an EIA and the methods of assessment will be reviewed and updated at intervals, to ensure that progress is made in keeping up with the technical know-how of international environment bodies.

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	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 in place to prevent damage to biological diversity.	
<p>DoE of Iran has enforced EIA for major industrial activities and development plans. Meanwhile, by enforcement of PAs Law in which any large scale economic activities in the core zones of Protected Areas are prohibited, it seems that all potential damages to biodiversity are prevented and current threats are controlled to a large extent.</p>	

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

Box LIII.

<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 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	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
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.	

111. ? Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Parties, in accordance with Article 15(6)?	
a) No	X
b) No, but potential measures are under review	
c) Yes, some measures are in place (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place (please provide details below)	
Further information on the measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties.	

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	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	

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.

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.

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)	X
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.

Some indicators are proposed in the need assessment phase of NBSAP and also by a inter-sectoral working group which is formed for this task.

116. Has your country been involved in capacity-building activities related to access and benefit-sharing?	
a) Yes (please provide details below)	
b) No	X
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.	

Box LIV.

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

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
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	X
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, some programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive programmes being implemented (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the provision of financial and technical support and training to assist in the implementation of the programme of work on transfer of technology and technology cooperation.	

121. Is your country taking any measures to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation? (decision VII/29)	
a) No	
b) No, but some measures being considered	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 to remove unnecessary impediments to funding of multi-country initiatives for technology transfer and for scientific and technical cooperation.	

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	X
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.	

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	X
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.	

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	X
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.	

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	
c) Yes, some measures are in place	X
d) Yes, comprehensive measures are in place	

The following question (127) is for DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

127. ? On Article 17(1), do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries and include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?

a) No	
b) Yes, but they do not include the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	
c) Yes, and they include categories of information listed in Article 17 (2), such as technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on	

Box LVII .

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

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

With developing the Iranian Biodiversity & CHM web site (www.biodiversity.ir) and publishing over 12,000 pages on it, we have more than 20,000 visitors per month and our greatest challenge is to gather documents and create databases.

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)

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

X

Further information on the measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation.

Iranian relevant organizations are developing some measures to promote their technical and scientific cooperation with international community in the field of Biodiversity related issues. Earlier developed collaborations of various national institutions (Museums, research centers, universities, etc.) with their foreign homologues or specialized institutions are some concrete examples of such measures.

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

d) 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.	
<p>To a very limited extent, DoE is involved in promoting the establishment of some joint research programmes and joint activities with some private companies for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention. Since 2002, the cooperation with qualified and specialized companies in new training methods and providing modern education facilities is started.</p>	

131. Has your country established links to non-governmental organizations, private sector and other institutions holding important databases or undertaking significant work on biological diversity through the CHM? (decision V/14)	
a) No	
b) No, but coordination with relevant NGOs, private sector and other institutions under way	
c) Yes, links established with relevant NGOs, private sector and institutions	X

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	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on development of relevant initiatives.	
<p>In a mid and long term perspective, after the complete establishment of CHM within the country, it will be used to make information available more useful for researchers and decision-makers. However, at the early stage of CHM development, it is under utilization to these purposes.</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.	
<p>Through the 4th National Development Plan, DoE is obligated to prepare and undertake a comprehensive CHM programme in the country to improve synergies among biodiversity-related Conventions and issues.</p>	

Box LVIII.

<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 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	X
c) Yes, some measures are in place	

d) Yes, comprehensive legislation are in place	
e) Yes, comprehensive statutory policy and subsidiary legislation are in place	
f) Yes, comprehensive policy and administrative measures are in place	

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

a) No	
b) No, but potential measures are under review	X
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.

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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	USD\$ 500,000 to 1,000,000
b) Extra-budgetary resources (identified by donor agencies)	USD\$ 50,000 – 100,000
c) Bilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	USD\$ 50,000
d) Regional channels (identified by donor agencies)	N/A
e) Multilateral channels (identified by donor agencies)	N/A

f) Private sources (identified by donor agencies)	N/A
g) Resources generated through financial instruments, such as charges for use of biodiversity	USD\$ 10,000,000 – 25,000,000

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.

During the period of 1996-2000, Iran has received USD\$ 450,000 financial support provided by UNDP/GEF as Enabling Activity to prepare its NBSAP, In 2003, the government has allocated about USD\$ 500,000 as Biodiversity project and then by the time being, annual governmental financial contribution has increased to USD\$ 1,000,000.

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.

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 fulfil 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.	
<p>Established Steering Committee for biodiversity related programmes, consisting representatives of several ministries and administration bodies, will monitor all required financial supports of activities to be implemented in coming years.</p>	

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)	X
c) Yes, exemptions are in place (please provide details below)	
Further comments on tax exemptions for biodiversity-related donations.	
<p>Some measures are planned to encourage financial support for environmental matters, but they are not directly related to biodiversity. For example, tax exemptions are examined for polluter industries who act for mitigation of pollution emission by using appropriate measures.</p>	

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	X
c) Yes (please provide results of review below)	

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

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

a) No	
b) No, but review is under way	X
c) Yes, in some initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, in major initiatives and plans (please provide details below)	

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

144. Is your country enhancing the integration of biological diversity into the sectoral development and assistance programmes? (decision VII/21)

a) No	
b) No, but relevant programmes are under development	
c) Yes, into some sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	X
d) Yes, into major sectoral development and assistance programmes (please provide details below)	

Further comments on the integration of biodiversity into sectoral development and assistance programmes

According the 4th National Development Plan and National Action Plan for Conservation of Biodiversity, some programmes to conserve and promote sustainable use of biodiversity should be implemented by other relevant sectors. By this new approach, all other bodies are being involved in these actions. Such activities are being to enhance the integration of biological diversity into their development and assistance programmes.

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.

A r e a s	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)	X		
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)			
f) <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation, establishment and maintenance of <i>Ex-situ</i> conservation facilities (decision V/26)			X
g) Projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 (Education and Public Awareness) (decision VI/19)			X
h) Preparation of national reports (decisions III/9, V/19 and VI/25)			X
i) Projects for conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity (decision IV/4)			X
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		X
l) Implementation of the Global Taxonomy Initiative			X
m) Implementation of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity			X
n) Others (please specify)			

Further information on application for financial support.

In this table, the term "other sources" comprises all in-kind and/or cash governmental contribution.

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	3	1	2	3	2
(b) Limited public participation and stakeholder involvement	3	3	2	2	1	2
(c) Lack of mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity issues into other sectors	2	2	1	3	2	1
(d) Lack of precautionary and proactive measures	3	2	2	3	1	2
(e) Inadequate capacity to act, caused by institutional weakness	3	3	3	2	2	2
(f) Lack of transfer of technology and expertise	2	2	1	2	1	2
(g) Loss of traditional knowledge	3	3	3	2	2	3
(h) Lack of adequate scientific research capacities to support all the objectives	3	2	2	3	2	3

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

(bb) Others (please specify)						
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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	X
b) Outcome oriented targets developed but priority activities not developed	
c) Priority activities developed but not outcome oriented targets	
d) Yes, comprehensive outcome oriented targets and priority activities developed	
Further comments on the adoption of outcome oriented targets and priorities for activities, including providing a list of targets (if developed).	

150. Is your country promoting synergies between this programme of work and related activities under the Ramsar Convention as well as the implementation of the Joint Work Plan (CBD-Ramsar) at the national level? (decision VII/4)	
a) Not applicable (not Party to Ramsar Convention)	

b) No	X
c) No, but potential measures were identified for synergy and joint implementation	
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.	

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.

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.

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)	
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)	X
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.

Another two activities included in NBSAP are as follows:

- Cooperation on the Formulation of National Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management.

- Imposing penalties for the degradation of biodiversity and sensitive habitat.

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.	

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.	

Marine and Coastal Living Resources

156. Has your country identified components of your marine and coastal ecosystems, which are critical for their functioning, as well as key threats to those ecosystems?	
a) No	
b) Plans for a comprehensive assessment of marine and coastal ecosystems are in place (please provide details below)	
c) A comprehensive assessment is currently in progress	X
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	

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	
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	
e) A national system or network of marine and coastal protected areas has been put in place	
f) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas managed for purpose of sustainable use, which may allow extractive activities	
g) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas includes areas which exclude extractive uses	
h) The national system of marine and coastal protected areas is surrounded by sustainable management practices over the wider marine and coastal environment.	
i) Other (please describe below)	
j) Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of marine and coastal protected areas.	
Implementation of Integrated Marine and Coastal Zones Management.	

Mariculture

159. Is your country applying the following techniques aimed at minimizing adverse impacts of mari-culture on marine and coastal biodiversity? Please check all that apply.	
a) Application of environmental impact assessments for mariculture developments	X
b) Development and application of effective site selection methods in the framework of integrated marine and coastal area management	
c) Development of effective methods for effluent and waste control	X
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	X

h)	Implementation of effective measures to prevent the inadvertent release of mariculture species and fertile polyploids.	X
i)	Use of proper methods of breeding and proper places of releasing in order to protect genetic diversity	X
j)	Minimizing the use of antibiotics through better husbandry techniques	
k)	Use of selective methods in commercial fishing to avoid or minimize by-catch	X
l)	Considering traditional knowledge, where applicable, as a source to develop sustainable mariculture techniques	
m)	Not applicable	
Further comments on techniques that aim at minimizing adverse impacts of mariculture on marine and coastal biodiversity.		

Alien Species and Genotypes

160. Has your country put in place mechanisms to control pathways of introduction of alien species in the marine and coastal environment? Please check all that apply and elaborate on types of measures in the space below.		
a)	No	
b)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from ballast water have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
c)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from hull fouling have been put in place (please provide details below)	
d)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from aquaculture have been put in place (please provide details below)	X
e)	Mechanisms to control potential invasions from accidental releases, such as aquarium releases, have been put in place (please provide details below)	
f)	Not applicable	
Further comments on the current status of activities relating to prevention of introductions of alien species in the marine and coastal environment, as well as any eradication activities.		
<p>Some controlling mechanisms to monitor potential invasions from ballast water are being planned in coming years.</p> <p>It is important to note that I.R. of Iran is one of the leading members of a global program funded by IMO and GEF by which Port of Khark island in the Iranian Waters of the Persian Gulf has been selected as demonstration site in the Persian Gulf and Middle east.</p>		

Box LXIV.

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

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

D) Culture of alien commercial species is highly controlled and in case, needs EIA to be carried out before implementing.

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	X
c) Yes, some strategies, programmes and plans are in place (please provide details below)	
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 *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* 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 *In-situ* and *EX-situ* conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biodiversity.

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

Programme element 1 – Assessment	
163. Has your country undertaken specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity such as on plant genetic resources, animal genetic resources, pollinators, pest management and nutrient cycling?	
a) No	
b) Yes, assessments are in progress (please specify components below)	X
c) Yes, assessments completed (please specify components and results of assessments below)	
Further comments on specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity.	
<p style="color: blue;">Recently, I.R. of Iran is demonstrating his political will to develop cooperation with relevant international organizations (FAO, CGIAR, etc.). According such cooperation and based on new approaches, several activities and programmes are being developed by Ministry of Agricultural Jihad (MoAJ) and in which, specific assessments of components of agricultural biodiversity to be undertaken.</p>	

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

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

166. Has your country been monitoring an overall degradation, status quo or restoration/rehabilitation of agricultural biodiversity since 1993 when the Convention entered into force?	
a) No	X
b) Yes, no change found (status quo)	
c) Yes, overall degradation found (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, overall restoration or rehabilitation observed (please provide details below)	
Further comments on observations.	

Programme element 2 - Adaptive management	
167. Has your country identified management practices, technologies and policies that promote the positive, and mitigate the negative, impacts of agriculture on biodiversity, and enhance productivity and the capacity to sustain livelihoods?	
a) No	
b) No, but potential practices, technologies and policies being identified	X
c) Yes, some practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive practices, technologies and policies identified (please provide details below)	
Further comments on identified management practices, technologies and policies.	

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	X
b) Yes (please specify area/component and target groups with increased capacity)	
Further comments on increased capacities of farmers, indigenous and local communities, and their organizations and other stakeholders.	

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

170. Has your country improved the policy environment, including benefit-sharing arrangements and incentive measures, to support local-level management of agricultural biodiversity?	
a) No	
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.	

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.	

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	
d) Yes, by developing training material	X

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.	
<p>It has to be notified that the relevant administration body in the country (MoAJ) is mandated to develop some policy and planning guidelines, based on what is previewed in the 4th National Development Plan.</p>	

173. In the case of centers of origin in your country, is your country promoting activities for the conservation, on farm, <i>In-situ</i> , and <i>Ex-situ</i> , of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including their wild relatives?	
a) No	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on of the conservation of the variability of genetic resources for food and agriculture in their center of origin.	

Box LXV.

Please provide information concerning the actions taken by your country to implement the Plan of Action for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators.
<p>Some actions are proposed by the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad.</p>

Box LXVI.

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.

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	X
b) Yes, please describe the process used	
c) Yes, please describe constraints/obstacles encountered in the process	
d) Yes, please describe lessons learned	
e) Yes, please describe targets for priority actions in the programme of work	
Further comments on the incorporation of relevant parts of the work programme into your NBSAP and forest programmes	

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.
Not Applicable

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.
Not Applicable

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.
Not Applicable

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.

Not Applicable

Expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity

Programme element 1 – Conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing	
175. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests?	
a) No (please provide reasons below)	
b) No, but potential measures being identified (please provide details below)	X
c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Comments on application of the ecosystem approach to management of forests (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impact on forest management, constraints, needs, tools, and targets).	
<p>Following the public concerns related to the existing high rates in loss of forest resources, the pressures to change the traditional approaches of management plans have risen. Traditionally, ecosystem approach has inherent been in the classical forest management plans of the FRWO. Sustaining forest growing stocks and harvesting at rates lower than annual yields per hectare are considered as mandatory tasks of the responsible national organisation. Recent approaches being developed are intensively targeted to the existing forest areas of the country.</p>	

176. Has your country undertaken measures to reduce the threats to, and mitigate its impacts on forest biodiversity?		
Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify below the major threats identified in relation to each objective of goal 2 and the measures undertaken to address priority actions
b) No	X	<p>Please provide reasons below</p> <p>As the programme of work has not been followed by the responsible organization in the country (Forest, Rangelands and Watershed Organization), major identified threats are not relevant to this context.</p>
Further comments on measures to reduce threats to, and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biodiversity (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).		
<p>Recently, a national wide programme of work to protect Iranian forests has been approved by</p>		

the government and supported by 4th National Development Plan Law.

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

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 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).

According the national legislation, FRWO is responsible for protection of forest vegetations. So, FRWO has to prepare and implement appropriate programmes to protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity within a national wide context, like forest plantation activities, protecting forests in sensitive ecosystems, establishing preventive measures to control human interventions is unique forest reserves and so on. Always, the existing and unresolved socio-economic issues have been recognized as main causes of ineffectiveness in all actions taken in this regard.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

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).

In all Forest Management Plans prepared by FRWO and to be implemented by public or private companies, various measures are included in promoting the sustainable use of forest biological diversity. Harvesting based on annual yield of growing stock and applying environment sound techniques and technologies to exploitation operation and practices are the main tasks to be monitored and evaluated by FRWO.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please specify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 5 and describe measures undertaken
b) No	X	Please provide reasons below As the national framework for benefit-sharing issues are not established, forest genetic resources can not be excluded.

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
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).

Within the Forest Management Plans, all forest dwellers have their own traditional and customary rights to access and use forest resources. Based on an annual regime, each household and its community take his stake from demarcated stocks of the forest. Meanwhile, local

communities are authorized to use all Non Timber Forests Products (grazing, nutrition, etc.). Although the commercial use of such resources is not legitimated by law, but local populations are continuing their commercial harvesting of them. This is recognized, in some cases, as the main cause of forest biological resources loss in the country.

The lack of valid information pertaining to local harvests complicates any expected quantitative and qualitative evaluations in this regard.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of Goal 2 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No		Please provide reasons below

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).

As mentioned in above, main socio-economic failures are documented and well addressed in relevant measures to loss of forest biological diversity. Some important measures are taken to resolve the existing conflicts between local and public stakeholders' interests. In a general term, socio-economic failures and distortions have led to decisions that resulted in loss of biodiversity resources in forest areas. Traditionally, most decisions made by public authorities have been followed by an acceleration of forest degradation rates in the country. Still, there are some institutional shortcomings and administrative impediments to have a clear scoping of such issues.

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

Options	X	Details
a) Yes	X	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

		<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).</p> <p>Each year, the government allocates some financial resources to increase public education, participation and awareness in relation to forest biological diversity in the country. Of course, such measures are subject to general economic situation in matter of national incomes. Because of lack of identified strategies in this regard, the annual alterations of resources combined with trial and error approach in such programmes have led to relative ineffectiveness of actions taken.</p>
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Programme element 3 – Knowledge, assessment and monitoring		
<p>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?</p>		
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
b) No		Please provide reasons below
<p>Further comments on characterization of forest ecosystems at various scales (including effectiveness of actions taken, lessons learned, impacts on forest biodiversity, constraints, needs, tools and targets).</p> <p>Based on periodic and permanent inventory statistics, several studies have been undertaken to characterize Iranian forests ecosystems (sociologic and phyto-sociologic). One of the major shortcomings to improve the existing assessments of the status and trends of forest biological diversity is the focus on Caspian forest rather than all other types of the forests scattered throughout the country. So, there is a great need to increase qualitative and quantitative information related to forests in outside of the northern coastline provinces.</p>		

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
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).

FRWO is permanently revising collected information about growing stock estimations and by reviewing methodological literature on assessment techniques is intended to provide more accurate data on forest covers in the country. Some modern technologies like Geographic Information System are used to improve knowledge on the status and trends of the forests. Based on a periodic assessment (once in 10 years) FRWO undertakes a comprehensive survey to synthesize gathered information on inventory and last developments on socio-economic situations of Caspian forest basins. A similar programme is underway for other forest areas of the country.

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).

Recently, FRWO and DoE are involved in some research studies to find out the role forest biodiversity and its ecosystem functioning. These studies are intended to estimate the current

benefits raised by such resources to national and local economy. The 4th National Development Plan supports these measures and in line with underdevelopment measures, opens a new and large scope to this purpose.

186. Is your country undertaking any measures at national level to improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biodiversity?

Options	X	Details
a) Yes		Please identify priority actions in relation to each objective of goal 4 and describe measures undertaken to address these priorities
b) No	X	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).

Iran is endeavoured to improve his infrastructures for data gathering and information management at national level. The commitment of relevant institutions to provide more accurate information on national forest resources in the assessment and monitor of global forests is highlighted in several programmes. To realize it, many financial and human resources are used to acquire new technologies and instruments.

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	X
b) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further comments on scientific, technical and financial support, at the national and regional levels, to the activities identified in the programme of work.	

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.	
<p style="color: blue;">Integrated actions into BSAP and NAP of the UNCCD are not directly pertained to programme of work of dry and sub-humid lands.</p>	

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	X
b) Yes, some linkages established (please provide details below)	
c) Yes, extensive linkages established (please provide details below)	
Further comments on the measures to ensure the synergistic/collaborative implementation of the programme of work between the national UNCCD processes and other processes under related environmental conventions.	

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	X
c) Yes, some assessments undertaken (please provide details below)	
d) Yes, comprehensive assessment undertaken (please provide details below)	

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

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.

Iran has taken several measures to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands. National Action Plan to combat the loss of biological diversity in such areas is implementing. The most important measures in this regard are as follows:

- Strengthening the cooperation among various relevant national organizations (FRWO, DoE, MoAJ, Ministry of Energy, etc.).
- Involving major stakeholders in undertaking planned activities,
- Rising public awareness and facilitating participation, especially affected populations,
- Promoting required financial resources at different levels (provincial, sectoral, local and household),
- Capacity building among local communities and administrative relevant bodies.

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.

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.

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	
b) No, but relevant 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 prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity

Department of the Environment (DoE) of Iran in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) is developing a mountain biodiversity conservation project in which one of its main objectives is to mitigate the negative impacts of key threats to mountain biodiversity by using a comprehensive approach.

194. Has your country taken any measures to protect, recover and restore mountain biodiversity?

a) No	
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

The Protected Area Network (PAN) is at present the main tool for conserving and protecting biodiversity and nature in Iran. These protected areas cover different ecosystems including mountain ecosystems. Department of the Environment (DoE) is responsible for managing and implementing most of the PAN. In general the protected areas were established to protect large species and most of the biodiversity in the areas. These areas are the richest in biodiversity terms. Much biodiversity, however, can be found outside these protected. Large areas of healthy

pasture and forests, and hence biodiversity lie outside the existing areas. The status of the biodiversity inside the PAN is good. However the out lying parts of many of the protected areas are subject to an increasing pressure from villages near and in the area, and are degrading accordingly. Land degradation and soil erosion processes are increasing and threatening the sustainability of biodiversity within the PAN. Therefore an integrated management is required to address threats to biodiversity within and surrounding the PAs. In addition to these, other independent measures taken by sectoral bodies to manage and use fauna and flora resources, human development and ... indirectly affect conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity resources.

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

It is important to highlight that all mountain biodiversity related issues are usually treated and managed by existing relevant national organizations. As a concrete example, forest areas are mainly located in the mountainous regions and there is no separation between the forests located on mountains and other regions and all undertaken activities are represented by similar names and titles.

However, the I.R. Iran Coordinating Committee for International Year of Mountains has performed many activities to promote sustainable use of mountain biodiversity. These include holding a Conference on Environmental Sustainability of Mountains. The main themes of the conference were mountain natural environment, social-economic and cultural aspects of mountain ecosystem, planning, management and ecotourism.

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

Until recently, the traditional political decision making systems and resource management structures of the local communities were poorly understood or appreciated. However further

steps are being considered for conserving the traditional knowledge and studying its scope. However, there is any specific measure to share 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.

With regard to legal, policy and institutional frameworks for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity, several stakeholders are involved. Still, there is not a developed comprehensive legal, political and institutional framework to this purpose. All undertaken activities by various administrative organizations can be served as a basis to establish national framework. Government policy is increasingly committed to environmental protection and to biodiversity conservation. However, in practice, it is very unlikely that there will be any sizeable impact on the rate of biodiversity loss. Department of the Environment is committed to a holistic approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization. However, due to its limited capacity, it is unable to influence society and unable to influence the economic sectors, such as forestry, rangelands, agricultural lands, water and tourism. As a result, it will focus its efforts on managing the core of its protected areas, with some success in the initial years, but leading to a fragmentation of biodiversity.

Actually, many of the causes of biodiversity loss can be traced back to national policy and programmes. For millennia, the nomads were the guardians of nature as they depended on it for their survival. They also could claim to 'own' the mountains. Hence, misconceived programmes to nationalize land caused a breakdown in the traditional nomadic management systems, and provided no alternative management system. In recent years, there have been some efforts to reverse these moves. In addition, some other national policies have had negative impacts.

At best, policies surrounding the programmes and projects state the importance of mountain biodiversity. However, lack of coordination and technical capacity will combine to ensure that the projects are implemented in a sectoral manner without true attention being paid to biodiversity.

198. Has your country been involved in regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity?

a) No	X
b) No, but some cooperation frameworks are being considered	

c) Yes (please provide details below)	
Further information on the regional and/or transboundary cooperative agreements on mountain ecosystems for conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity	
Some negotiations with neighbour countries are underway to establish trans-boundary Protected Areas.	

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	
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 identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biodiversity	
To very limited extent, various measures for identification, monitoring and assessment of mountain biological diversity have been taken in recent years. Meanwhile, some specialized research projects to large-scale highly financed nation-wide projects are being planned and implemented by key government agencies. These projects can have a positive result for biodiversity, if finely adapted.	

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	
As mentioned in question No. 193, Department of the Environment (DoE) of Iran is developing an international project for conservation of biodiversity in Zagros mountainous ecosystems. During the development phase of this project, many researches and studies were accomplished. Also one of the planned activities in the project is operationalizing the existing capacity and one aspect of this is traditional knowledge. Traditional practices will be the starting point for any technological improvements. A second aspect of capacity is policies and management	

mechanisms. The project development phase identified many innovative policy initiatives that are not yet operational. Through out the project the management of individual protected areas will be strengthened, initially by capacity building focusing on management and financial planning, community interactions, participatory approaches and resource mobilization.

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	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 to develop, promote, validate and transfer appropriate technologies for the conservation of mountain ecosystems

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.

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.

I.R. of Iran is actively taking part in related regional meetings, including the CBD Asia-Pacific regional meetings. Also, Iran was one of the candidates for the Asia- Pacific regional meeting for Prep-Cop 2004.

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.	
<p>As representative of the Asia- Pasific region in the SBSTTA for two Times, Iran has been endeavored to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation and to enhance integration and promoting synergies with relevant regional and sub-regional processes.</p>	

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 sub-regional 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	X

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.	
<p>As an active member of SBSTTA Bureau, Iran tries to discuss and consult with other Parties in the Asia-Pacific region to enhance reconciliation of regional views and positions.</p>	

Box LXXIV.

Please elaborate below on the implementation of the above decisions specifically focusing on:

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

F. COMMENTS ON THE FORMAT

Box LXXV.

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

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