


Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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

Information from different stakeholders was compiled during the process of preparing this report. Stakeholders included experts from government ministries – specifically Ministry of the Environment, Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science, and Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, experts from various academic institutions in Israel were consulted, most specifically the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Information on forest biological diversity was received from scientists at the Nature and National Parks Protection Authority and from the Jewish National Fund, the organization responsible for afforestation and forest management in Israel. Information on genetic conservation was obtained from the Israel Gene Bank, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Agriculture.

For the purpose of filling out the questionnaire, interviews were conducted with different members of these and other organizations and, where possible, supplementary material was examined. Internal meetings and discussions, with the participation of a variety of experts, were held within each ministry in order to help formulate responses.

In addition, careful examination was made of the documents prepared during the process of formulating a strategy for biological diversity in Israel, within the context of the UNEP-Mediterranean Action Plan Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for Israel.

Following collection and compilation of all of the material (written and oral), a marathon meeting was held with different stakeholders and the Focal Point of the Biodiversity Convention for the purpose of final analysis and formulation of the answers.

It should be noted that Israel's location in the Middle East heartland of genetic diversity of many major agricultural crops, coupled with its geographical and climatic diversity, have helped create a particularly rich collection of habitats and corresponding varieties. However, the region's political instability coupled with the country's rapid development and urbanization have led to habitat fragmentation and ecosystem degradation. Thus, although nature conservation is well developed in Israel, as manifested in legislation and the establishment of institutions that address themselves to the subject, the country has not been able to accord high priority to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity due to its unique political, social and regional circumstances. These circumstances are also manifested in financial constraints which have impeded adequate progress in implementing the convention.

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

* To date, Israel has not given high priority to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, largely due to its uncertain political, social and regional circumstances. These circumstances are also expressed in financial constraints. As a result, the programs of work for implementing different articles of the Biodiversity Convention have not yet been integrated into national policy and action plans, and financial allocations for implementation have been inadequate.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

Agricultural biological diversity

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

b) Adequate	
c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting	

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

Most of the land in Israel is dry or sub-humid, thus most of the management and conservation programs deal with that kind of ecosystem. These are still to be related to the convention work plan.

Article 5 Cooperation

11. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
12. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Israel devotes much effort to co-operation with other parties and groups. In the present political situation, it is difficult to make progress on the regional level.					

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

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

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

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

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

Decision V/21. Co-operation with other bodies

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel and Jordan share 41 km of shoreline around the northern Gulf of Aqaba. Within the framework of the 1994 peace negotiations, the two countries, with the support of the U.S., agreed to develop a Binational Red Sea Marine Peace Park. The three-year project, funded by the Middle East Cooperation Program (MERC) of the U.S. Agency for International Development, comprises two interconnected components: development of a coordinated management and educational outreach program and development of a coordinated, long-term monitoring and research program. The overall goal of the project, which was initiated in 1999, is to provide science-based management tools for the better protection of the coral reef ecosystem in the Gulf of Aqaba.

Plans have also been proposed, by both government and non-governmental organizations, for the wise use and development of the Dead Sea area in terms of tourism, recreation and development. Programs have been prepared for declaring biosphere reserves in the Dead Sea and Negev Mountain areas. Political circumstances have thus far precluded progress.

MASHAV, the Center for International Cooperation of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conducts training and consultancies in Israel and abroad in some 140 states. Agricultural research, water management, environmental conservation and education are important priorities in these cooperatives projects.

The Society for the Protection of Nature (Israel's largest environmental NGO) and Tel Aviv University have set up an International Center for the Study of Bird Migration in Latrun, midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, at the center of the western migration route through Israel. Several research studies, which bring together researchers from the Middle East, Europe and West Asia and Africa, are carried out at this and at other centers in Israel. One project revolves around the migration of soaring birds (particularly white storks); another will see the development of a regional database on bird migration; still others are investigating the status of the Common Crane and the Great White Pelican. In addition, a unique Internet site was developed in Israel, which links schoolchildren from all over the world in tracking migrating birds. The project is known as "Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries" and can be found at the web site: <http://www.birds.org.il>.

Article 6 General measures for conservation and sustainable use

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

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed ₁	
e) completed and adopted ₂	
f) reports on implementation available	
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed ₂	
e) completed and adopted ₂	
f) reports on implementation available	
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	X
b) most articles	
c) all articles	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel's national biodiversity strategy is still preliminary in nature and takes the form of guidelines based on key principles. In order to fulfill its national vision, objectives have been formulated aimed at protecting, assessing, utilizing and benefiting from biodiversity and its components. In addition, several targets have been formulated which will aid the country to meet its objectives.

As part of the Coastal Areas Management Programme (CAMP) for Israel, conducted within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP), background material was prepared about biodiversity in Israel, threats to species, genetic resources and ecosystems, and proposals for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The material is currently being finalized and edited prior to publication.

At this time, a national biodiversity strategy has not been approved in Israel. However, implementation of different articles of the Biodiversity Convention is carried out within the framework of academic, national and non-governmental institutions, on a piecemeal basis.

Article 7 Identification and monitoring

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

32. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
33. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at ecosystem level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
34. Does your country have an ongoing inventory programme at genetic level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	X
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	

36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for ecosystems of particular interest only	X
c) for major ecosystems	
d) for a comprehensive range of ecosystems	
37. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at genetic level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	X
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	
b) threats well known in some areas, not in others	X
c) most threats known, some gaps in knowledge	
d) comprehensive understanding	
e) reports available	
39. Is your country monitoring these activities and their effects (7c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	X
c) advanced stages of programme development	
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
40. Does your country coordinate information collection and management at the national level (7d)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of programme development	
c) advanced stages of programme development	X
d) programme in place	
e) reports on implementation available	

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

41. Has your country identified national indicators of biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	

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

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

47. Is your country actively involved in co-operating with other countries in your region in the field of indicators, monitoring and assessment?	
a) no	
b) limited co-operation	X
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	
d) extensive co-operation on a wide range of issues	
48. Has your country made available case studies concerning the development and implementation of assessment, monitoring and indicator programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes - through the national CHM	
d) yes - other means (please specify)	
49. Is your country assisting other Parties to increase their capacity to develop indicator and monitoring programmes?	
a) no	

b) providing training	
c) providing direct support	
d) sharing experience	X
e) other (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel is now in the stage of planning and identifying parameters for monitoring and assessing biodiversity.

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

Israel has extensive natural history collections and is the only scientific center in the Middle East where intensive collecting, research and teaching in the natural sciences take place. Since there is no national museum of natural history in the Middle East and the few other collections that exist are small, the collections that exist in Israel's universities have regional significance. Over a decade ago, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities recognized the importance of the natural history collections of Tel Aviv University and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, among others, as the Israel National Collections of Natural History. These collections were viewed as a National Museum of Natural History in the making, and recognizing their significance, the Planning and Grants Committee of the Council for Higher Education provides annual funds towards their maintenance.

These natural history collections serve as centers for taxonomic expertise and biodiversity research. This role has gained new significance in recent years because of the global biodiversity crisis. As a result of recent advances in molecular biology, taxonomy has received greater significance. The Israel Academy of Sciences established an ad hoc committee on biological collections in Israel in 1996 and issued its recommendations in 1998. Recommendations relate to increased university participation and activity on the subject, creation of a computerized system for biological collections, and financial support of the project. Thus far, the recommendations have not been implemented and initiatives and efforts have been promoted nearly exclusively by the academic sector. A national effort to maintain and develop this important archive of the biodiversity of the region is required urgently.

In order to make taxonomic information more widely available, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has launched BioGIS, a Geographical Information System established to create a national database of Israel's flora and fauna. The database is open to the public and provides advanced tools for querying, analyzing, modeling and visualizing patterns of species distribution in Israel. The BioGIS database compiles records of plant and animal species from herbaria and museum collections and from surveys carried out by academic institutions, individual scientists, government authorities and non-governmental organizations in Israel. The Internet-based biodiversity information system (www.biogis.huji.ac.il) is currently at an early stage of development.

The Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority has recently inaugurated a new Internet site (www.natureinfo.org.il) which presents its animal and plant observation database. The database is open to the public and provides tools for querying on observations of species in specific areas, inventories of species in specific areas, and observations of specific species in the entire area of Israel.

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

70. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?				
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low
71. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?				
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting
			X	d) Severely limiting
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources				
Israel has a developed network of protected areas and conservation plans for several species.				

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	X
d) relatively complete system in place	
73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	X
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	
74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	

75. Has your country undertaken measures that promote the protection of ecosystems, natural habitats and the maintenance of viable populations of species in natural surroundings (8d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
76. Has your country undertaken measures that promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas (8e)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) reasonably comprehensive measures in place	
77. Has your country undertaken measures to rehabilitate and restore degraded ecosystems (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
78. Has your country undertaken measures to promote the recovery of threatened species (8f)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
79. Has your country undertaken measures to regulate, manage or control the risks associated with the use and release of living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology (8g)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
80. Has your country made attempts to provide the conditions needed for compatibility between present uses and the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (8i)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) programme or policy in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	

b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for <i>in-situ</i> conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
84. Does your country receive financial and other support for <i>in situ</i> conservation (8m)?	
a) no	
b) yes (if so, please give details below)	X

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel has the necessary legal and institutional framework to protect its biodiversity. Damage to biodiversity is considered a crime under a long list of Israeli laws, and perpetrators may be prosecuted through the enforcement of these laws.

The country's commitment to protect natural values finds expression in national master plans such as the National Master Plan for National Parks, Nature Reserves and Landscape Reserves and the National Master Plan for Forests and Afforestation.

Sustainable development principles that relate to biodiversity within the framework of protection of open space have been integrated into the proposed National Master Plan for Building, Development and Conservation. The goals of the plan include, *inter alia*, minimization of damage to open space areas and protection of nature, landscape and land reserves for future generations through regulations for areas of high landscape sensitivity, water resources, landscape complexes and strips, and coastal and river strips.

In a country as small as Israel, with a high rate of industrialization and urbanization, nature reserves are important to help secure the biodiversity of the natural environment. Israeli law defines a nature reserve as an area containing unique and characteristic animal, plant and mineral forms which must be protected from any undesirable changes in their appearance, biological composition and evolution. Israel's nature reserves represent the entire spectrum of the country's ecosystems, including Mediterranean forests, marine landscapes, sand dunes, freshwater landscapes, desert and crater landscapes and oases.

One of the country's most important regions, Mt. Carmel, was declared a biosphere reserve in 1996 within the framework of the Man and Biosphere Program of UNESCO. Efforts are currently devoted to the declaration of additional biosphere reserves in different parts of the country.

The main problem facing nature conservation in the Mediterranean region is habitat fragmentation. The Mediterranean region, and especially the coastal plain, is densely populated and only 3% is currently protected within nature reserves (less than 8% within nature reserves and national parks). Protection of many populations is impossible to achieve within the reserve system in the Mediterranean region. Most of the country's nature reserves are found in the desert area of Israel, and a large number overlap military training areas. The unique desert ecosystem is endangered by pressure from development and tourism plans.

Specific plans for rehabilitation and restoration of different ecosystems have been drawn up and implemented. The Hula Reserve provides one such example. In recent years, plans have been implemented to restore part of the larger Hula area (outside the nature reserve) to its original wetland state and thus enable many species to repopulate the Hula while allowing others to be reintroduced. A multi-disciplinary research program accompanied the reflooding project.

In the 1960s, the Nature and Parks Authority set out to reintroduce populations of animals present in historical times, as supported by biblical reference, but no longer found within modern Israel. Two breeding cores were set up in the north and the south of the country to breed animals suitable for release. Five species were chosen: ostrich, roe deer, Asiatic wild ass, Persian fallow deer and white oryx (also known as Arabian oryx).

In 1994, the Nature and Parks Authority initiated a plan to create 60 artificial rainpools in nature reserves throughout Israel in order to maintain important wetland habitats. The rainpools are helping to maintain

invertebrate and amphibian species.

In-situ conservation is an essential stage in the development of a coordinated world genetic conservation program, assuming that gene pools of local varieties should be considered from the dynamic point of view, in which the conserved population is under continuous evolution. National funding sources are very limited and therefore, *in-situ* conservation methods are developed in addition to *ex-situ* conservation. Israel has pioneered the concept of dynamic gene preservation - preserving genes in wild interacting populations - in parallel to the static preservation of seeds. The evolution of the plants continues, but the genes themselves are preserved as long as the overall system stays in a roughly steady-state equilibrium. Israel's landmark studies at Ammiad (in the eastern Galilee) on dynamic *in-situ* conservation in wild wheat population have drawn international attention.

Although Israel has not provided financial aid to developing countries for *in-situ* conservation, it has provided support through the organization of an international course on the subject for students from developing countries, in the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University. Israel hopes to continue these activities in the future.

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
87. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Israel is now trying to produce guidelines for introduction or elimination of alien species.					

88. Has your country identified alien species introduced?	
a) no	
b) only major species of concern	X
c) only new or recent introductions	X
d) a comprehensive system tracks new introductions	
e) a comprehensive system tracks all known introductions	
89. Has your country assessed the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of these alien species?	
a) no	X
b) only some alien species of concern have been assessed	
c) most alien species have been assessed	
90. Has your country undertaken measures to prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel does not have a specific law that prohibits the introduction of alien species or controls invading species on ecological grounds. Over 120 adventive wild plant species have been identified, of which about 30 have become widespread and have penetrated into natural habitats, causing changes in the composition of plant communities and habitats. Another 20 species are recognized as invasive species based on the experience of other countries and may be expected to cause similar problems in Israel in the future.

The most serious problem for natural vegetation is caused by the invasion of the *Acacia saligna*, introduced in the first half of the 20th century for sand dune stabilization. This species has already dominated hundreds of hectares of the coastal plain, especially light sandy soils and wetland habitats, as well as large areas of the Judean Hills. At present, this is the only known plant species which has reached this phase. Mediterranean flora is generally strong and free of sharp borders, thus allowing for constant passage. Thus far, Israel's vegetation has been relatively successful in tackling alien species.

Several proposals have recently been submitted for surveys which will provide a more thorough assessment of the risks posed to ecosystems, habitats or species by the introduction of alien species. These include the following projects: control and eradication of *Acacia saligna*; distribution and analysis of the impact of invasive alien species on habitats and flora in nature reserves and national parks; and a computerized database on alien plant species introduced into Israel which constitute a threat to the

diversity of native organisms and to the natural landscape of the country. Inadequate financial resources have thus far precluded the implementation of these surveys.

There are no restrictions on the import of plants into the country with the exception of plant species included in the CITES Convention, which require approval by the Nature and National Parks Protection Authority, and poisonous or narcotic species, which are prohibited by the Ministry of Health. An Introduction Commission within the Ministry of Agriculture coordinates agricultural and horticultural introductions all over the country - mostly in order to improve acclimation of new species. However, the commission also helps to control new introductions and to avoid unwanted ones. New species are checked in experimental gardens. If found to be invasive, they are eradicated and their introduction is prohibited.

Initial contacts have been made with different states to develop projects to address the issue of alien species, most notably development of a database and assessment of the colonizing potential of alien species.

Article 8j Traditional knowledge and related provisions

103. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?				
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low
104. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?				
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting
				d) Severely limiting
X				
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources				
It is not a main issue in Israel.				

105. Has your country undertaken measures to ensure that the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity are respected, preserved and maintained?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	

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

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

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

115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
117. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in the implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes - to a limited extent	
d) yes - to a significant extent	
118. Has your country provided case studies on methods and approaches concerning the preservation and sharing of traditional knowledge, and the control of that information by indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
d) yes - through the national CHM	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
119. Does your country exchange information and share experiences regarding national legislation and other measures for the protection of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) yes - through the CHM	
d) yes - with specific countries	
e) yes - available through other means (please specify)	
120. Has your country taken measures to promote the conservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	
b) not relevant	X
c) some measures	
d) extensive measures	
121. Has your country supported the development of registers of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, in collaboration with these communities?	
a) no	

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Israel Gene Bank (IGB), under the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Agriculture, is responsible for the implementation of a strategy for national genetic resources conservation, taking into consideration the specific conditions and characteristics of Israel. Its responsibilities, include, *inter alia*, the search for plants potentially suitable for extraction of beneficial substances, the collection, preservation, documentation and evaluation of genetic resources of crop plants and their relatives, including landraces and primitive cultivars, and the development of *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation techniques. Today, it is recognized that the maintenance of the conditions that create and maintain diversity, with emphasis on the role of indigenous knowledge in the evolution and cultivation of different genotypes, is very important.

In addition, different centers of activities based in academic institutions, agricultural research organizations and experimental farms, deal with the development and application of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities.

Within the framework of its support for R & D centers in the periphery of the country, the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport supports the activities of two centers, which include in their programs research on the application of scientific methods to further and develop indigenous knowledge. One of these centers, the Regional Research and Development Center of the Galilee Society, is sponsoring, with the financial aid of the Ministries of Science, Culture and Sport, Agriculture and Health and other regional and international organizations, a project on the medicinal properties of plants used in traditional healing. As part of the project, dozens of species used in traditional Arab folk medicine are grown in a greenhouse to the point where their medicinal properties can be tested in modern laboratories. The project involved scientists and researchers in door-to-door survey of all traditional Arab healers, both for the purpose of preserving the medicinal power of the plants as well as to keep the tradition alive. The medicinal plants project documents and collects plants used in traditional Arab healing and extracts bioactive compounds

from the plants and tests them for efficacy in treating diseases such as liver cancer, diabetes and skin diseases.

Palevitch and Yaniv, in a 1991 Hebrew publication, mention over 400 wild species used for medicinal purposes. A multi-volume encyclopedia (in Hebrew) of medicinal plants and spices has been published in Israel.

Article 9 Ex situ conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
126. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
Israel's location in the Mideast heartland of genetic diversity for many major agricultural crops, coupled with its geographical and climatic diversity, have helped create a rich collection of habitats and corresponding genetic diversity. Israel is considered to be one of the world's richest areas in progenitors and relatives of domesticated species. The documentation, preservation and evaluation of these genetic resources have been accorded priority on the national scientific level.					

127. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>native</i> to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
128. Has your country adopted measures for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of components of biological diversity <i>originating outside</i> your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>native</i> to your country (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	
c) yes - significant extent	X
131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the <i>ex situ</i> conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources <i>originating elsewhere</i> (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

132. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
133. Has your country adopted measures for the reintroduction of threatened species into their natural habitats under appropriate conditions (9c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for <u>ex situ</u> conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and <u>in situ</u> populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
<i>If a developed country Party -</i>	
135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for <u>ex situ</u> conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of <u>ex situ</u> conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)?	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
136. Has your country received financial and other support for ex situ conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of ex situ conservation facilities (9e)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Israel Gene Bank (IGB) was established in 1979, by the Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Agriculture, as a coordinating body for Israel's decentralized plant genetic resource efforts. The Long-Term Seed Bank at Bet Dagan holds about 16,000 types and accessions of indigenous species, landraces and crop varieties. Several organizations take an active part in the IGB network. These include the National Herbarium of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, dating back to the early 1920s, which is the only collection of its size in the eastern Mediterranean. Two-thirds of its 500,000 specimens were collected in the Mediterranean and Middle East regions. Other collections include a national cloning repository of deciduous fruit tree landraces and rootstocks, an international collection of short day *allium* taxa, spice and medicinal plants, a wild wheat field laboratory, a *Triticeae* collection, etc. Efforts are currently focused on upgrading the IGB to provide a more generic infrastructure.

Botanical gardens have been established by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and by Tel Aviv University.

When possible, Israel has initiated cooperation with scientists in the region, including Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, in order to promote the collection of unique resources. It has also provided courses and instruction on plant genetic resources including modern techniques for collection, preservation and analysis of genetic material, with the support of international foundations.

Article 10 Sustainable use of components of biological diversity

137. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
138. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

139. Has your country integrated consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision making (10a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
141. Has your country put in place measures that protect and encourage customary use of biological resources that is compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements (10c)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

142. Has your country put in place measures that help local populations develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced (10d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
143. Does your country actively encourage cooperation between government authorities and the private sector in developing methods for sustainable use of biological diversity (10e)?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

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

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

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

146. Has your country identified indicators and incentive measures for sectors relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) assessment of potential indicators underway	X
c) indicators identified (if so, please describe below)	

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

Decision V/25. Biological diversity and tourism

150. Has your country based its policies, programmes and activities in the field of sustainable tourism on an assessment of the inter-linkages between tourism and biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
151. Has your country submitted case-studies on tourism as an example of the sustainable use of biological diversity to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
152. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Ecotourism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
153. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Year of Mountains?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
154. Has your country undertaken activities relevant to biodiversity and tourism in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
155. Has your country established enabling policies and legal frameworks to complement voluntary efforts for the effective implementation of sustainable tourism?	

a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent (please describe)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel is poor in natural resources and therefore the subject of the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity is generally not relevant to the special circumstances of the country. The National Parks, Nature Reserves, National Sites and Memorial Sites Law provides the legal structure for the protection of natural habitats, natural assets, wildlife and sites of scientific, historic, architectural and educational interest. It establishes systems for declaring nature reserves and national parks and for listing protected natural assets. To help protect flora and fauna outside the confines of natural reserves, hundreds of plants and animal species, including ferns, wildflowers, shrubs, trees and fish, as well as minerals, have been declared "protected natural assets." Animals such as the leopard, gazelle, ibex and vulture have been declared protected species, and special rescue operations, including establishment of feeding stations and nesting sites, have been initiated to protect them. The law prohibits taking, destroying, possessing or trading of protected natural assets.

Although Israel has not submitted case studies on tourism and its effects on biological diversity to the Secretariat, the country has, to a large extent, based its tourism policies and programs on ecological principles. In light of Israel's scant land resources, the National Master Plan for Tourism recognizes the importance of maintaining sufficient land reserves for tourist accommodation and services, in the face of development pressures, and takes account of ecological aspects. Furthermore, a sustainable tourism strategy was developed within the framework of the country's overall proposed sustainable development policy.

Sustainable development of tourism will first and foremost aspire to steer the existing demand for Israel's historical-heritage values to centers that are not ecologically sensitive (i.e., historical, religious and archaeological sites located in cities, national parks or archaeological spots). Tourism will continue to concentrate on site visits, excursions and pilgrimages. It will be urban in character and will be concentrated in organized sites and routes. The conservation of scenic and landscape resources and nature areas will be granted top priority for the benefit of the local population and to complement and diversify the tourism package.

In anticipation of the International Year of Ecotourism, the Ministry of Tourism will include ecotourism in its planning and development for the year 2002. Such tourism will largely be targeted at the desert area (Negev), Dead Sea, rural areas and bird-watching sites (at the Hula Valley and Eilat). With more than 500 million migrating birds flying over its narrow airspace each year, Israel has become an internationally known birdwatching center.

Article 11 Incentive measures

156. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X
157. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	d) Severely limiting X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
No further comments					
158. Are programmes in place to identify and ensure the adoption of economically and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					X
c) advanced stages of development					
d) programmes in place					
e) review of implementation available					
159. Do these incentives, and the programmes to identify them and ensure their adoption, cover the full range of sectoral activities?					
a) no					X
b) some sectors					
c) all major sectors					
d) all sectors					

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) reviews in progress	X
c) some reviews complete	
d) as far as practically possible	
161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, <i>inter alia</i> , national accounting systems and investment strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of identifying mechanisms	X
c) advanced stages of identifying mechanisms	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) review of impact of mechanisms available	

162. Has your country developed training and capacity building programmes to implement incentive measures and promote private-sector initiatives?	
a) no	X
b) planned	
c) some	
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - case-studies	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	
166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) partially reviewed	
c) thoroughly reviewed	
d) measures designed based on the reviews	
e) review of implementation available	
167. Do the existing incentive measures take account of economic, social, cultural and ethical valuation of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
168. Has your country developed legal and policy frameworks for the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	

d) frameworks in place	
e) review of implementation available	
169. Does your country carry out consultative processes to define clear target-oriented incentive measures to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss?	
a) no	X
b) processes being identified	
c) processes identified but not implemented	
d) processes in place	
170. Has your country identified and considered neutralizing perverse incentives?	
a) no	X
b) identification programme under way	
c) identified but not all neutralized	
d) identified and neutralized	

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The use of accounting tools to quantify and measure such resources as biodiversity is only now beginning in Israel. Sporadic attempts have been made to assess the economic costs of environmental degradation. The use of incentives to promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is still in its infancy.

Article 12 Research and training

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

175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	
176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

If a developed country Party -

179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?

a) no	X
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Research and training on biodiversity are not yet funded on the national level although individual researchers and scientists are studying the subject and biodiversity issues are incorporated in university courses on Conservation Biology.

Article 13 Public education and awareness

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

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

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

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	

186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	X
b) significant but not adequate resources	
c) adequate resources	
187. Does your country support initiatives by major groups that foster stakeholder participation and that integrate biological diversity conservation matters in their practice and education programmes?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
188. Has your country integrated biodiversity concerns into education strategies?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes	
189. Has your country made available any case-studies on public education and awareness and public participation, or otherwise sought to share experiences?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
190. Has your country illustrated and translated the provisions of the Convention into any local languages to promote public education and awareness raising of relevant sectors?	
a) not relevant	
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	X
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
<i>If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -</i>	
192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

193. Does your country support capacity-building for education and communication in biological diversity as part of the national biodiversity strategy and action plans?	
a) no	
b) limited support	X
c) yes (please give details)	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Education and public awareness programs are largely promoted by non-governmental organizations, foremost among which is the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. Every year, this organization reaches hundreds of thousands of children, youth and adults through its educational trips, courses, training programs, public campaigns and publications. Major emphasis is placed on conservation of biodiversity.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and Tel Aviv University have launched scientific, educational and conservation activities on avian fauna. One project links schoolchildren from all over the world through an Internet site: <http://www.birds.org.il>. Israel's computer-assisted learning environment is entitled: "Migrating Birds Know No Boundaries."

The Nature and National Parks Protection Authority operates local and regional visitor and instruction centers in nature reserves throughout the country. The centers provide information on the landscape, geology, botany and zoology of a given area by means of creative displays, maps and pamphlets. They work alongside local schools in providing information on the biodiversity of a given region.

A few publications in Hebrew, notably Ecology and the Environment which includes English abstracts, provide information on biodiversity issues in Israel.

The Israel Nature and National Parks Protection Authority has recently inaugurated a new Internet site (www.natureinfo.org.il) which presents its animal and plant observation database. The database is open to the public and provides tools for querying on observations of species in specific areas, inventories of species in specific areas, and observations of specific species in the entire area of Israel.

Article 14 Impact assessment and minimizing adverse impacts

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

196. Is legislation in place requiring an environmental impact assessment of proposed projects likely to have adverse effects on biological diversity (14 (1a))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation in place	X
e) review of implementation available	
197. Do such environmental impact assessment procedures allow for public participation (14(1a))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	

199. Is your country involved in bilateral, regional and/or multilateral discussion on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
200. Is your country implementing bilateral, regional and/or multilateral agreements on activities likely to significantly affect biological diversity outside your country's jurisdiction (14(1c))?	
a) no	
b) no, assessment of options in progress	X
c) some completed, others in progress	
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
e) no need identified	
203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) mechanisms in place	
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) no need identified	

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

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

Decision V/18. Impact assessment, liability and redress

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel has a statutory environmental impact assessment system that relates to biodiversity. The assessment system requires species and ecosystem surveys, reviews of potential impacts on biodiversity and recommendations on measures to prevent or remedy damages. In cases where adverse impact is anticipated, resources are invested to conserve biodiversity.

The Ministry of the Environment is currently reviewing the incorporation of biodiversity considerations in the environmental impact assessment system. Following are some of the recommendations which have been incorporated in environmental impact statements over the past several years in the area of biodiversity: transfer and replanting of endangered plant species in sheltered habitats; maintaining corridors of undeveloped habitat to allow for animal crossing; restrictions on development and human access in sensitive habitats; erection of artificial pools which can become habitats for waterfowl; destruction of invading plant species; fencing to allow restoration of plant communities; reserving strands of beaches as turtle sanctuaries; restrictions on use of all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motorcycles; and monitoring to discover potential adverse impacts on biodiversity following project implementation.

In addition, the impact on biological diversity of bilateral projects, which are on the agenda between Israel and Jordan, is being reviewed. This includes plans for industrial parks, free trade zones, and a Red Sea to Dead Sea canal.

Within the framework of a cooperative agreement between Israel, Jordan and Egypt for joint action and mutual assistance in the event of a major oil spill in the northern Gulf of Aqaba, each state has undertaken to formulate a national contingency plan to prepare and equip itself for dealing with oil spills within the limits of its territorial waters. Israel has already prepared its Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Gulf of Eilat. While the Aqaba project has not yet been signed, it is being implemented on technical and professional levels.

Article 15 Access to genetic resources

216. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
217. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
No further comments					
218. Has your country endeavoured to create conditions to facilitate access to genetic resources for environmentally sound uses by other Contracting Parties (15(2))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					X
c) yes - significant extent					
219. Is there any mutual understanding or agreement in place between different interest groups and the State on access to genetic resources (15(4))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent					X
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					X
c) advanced stages of development					
d) processes in place					
221. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any scientific research based on genetic resources provided by other Contracting Parties is developed and carried out with the full participation of such Contracting Parties (15(6))?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					
c) potential measures under review					X
d) comprehensive measures in place					

222. Has your country taken measures to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other use of genetic resources with any Contracting Party providing such resources (15(7))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	X

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

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

227. Has your country identified national authorities responsible for granting access to genetic resources?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
228. Is your country taking an active role in negotiations associated with the adaptation of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	X
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	
Parties that are recipients of genetic resources	
231. Has your country adopted administrative or policy measures that are supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) other arrangements made	
c) yes	
232. Does your country co-operate with other Parties in order to find practical and equitable solutions supportive of efforts made by provider countries to ensure that access to their genetic resources is subject to Articles 15, 16 and 19 of the Convention, recognizing the complexity of the issue, with particular consideration of the multiplicity of prior informed consent considerations?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	

233. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) legislation under development	
c) yes	
234. Is your country co-ordinating its positions in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	
c) yes	
235. Has your country provided information to the Executive Secretary on user institutions, the market for genetic resources, non-monetary benefits, new and emerging mechanisms for benefit sharing, incentive measures, clarification of definitions, <i>sui generis</i> systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	
b) some information provided	
c) substantial information provided	
236. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) yes	
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of ex situ collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel is considered to be one of the world's richest areas in progenitors and relatives of domesticated species. Therefore, the documentation, preservation and evaluation of these genetic resources has been accorded priority on the national scientific level. Israel has one of the largest and most accessible collections of wild wheat, barley, oats, and legumes in the world, as well as a wealth of wild fruit trees and other important crops such as Alliums. Many contain genes which can improve protein and dry matter content, disease resistance, insect resistance, salinity and drought tolerance, and other desired traits. From the time Aaron Aaronsohn, the discoverer of wild emmer wheat in the Galilee in 1909, was invited to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Israel has played an important role in international activities on genetic preservation. Today, Israel is active in the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) network. IPGRI sends a group of its Third World fellows to the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for training in the collection, documentation and evaluation of *ex-situ* and *in-situ* preservation of wild gene pools.

Israel was one of the first countries to establish a Gene Bank for Agricultural Crops (IGB) in 1979. Its principal responsibilities are: to maintain active and passive germplasm collections, herbaria and gene parks; to facilitate national and international exchange of plant material; to maintain a database and information network; to promote national and international cooperation; to organize and participate in workshops, conferences and training activities; to disseminate information; and to guide research on gene bank activities such as dynamic *in-situ* conservation methods. Several organizations and academic institutions take part in the IGB network.

Within the framework of the Commission on Genetic Resources and the ECP/GR, the IGB has responsibility for the world collection of vegetative propagated short-day *Allium* taxa.

Article 16 Access to and transfer of technology

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

240. Has your country taken measures to provide or facilitate access for and transfer to other Contracting Parties of technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment (16(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes (please give brief details below)	X
242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?	
a) not relevant	
b) relevant, but no measures	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy or subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements	X
243. Has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and the private sector of developing countries (16(4))?	
a) no measures	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

Decision III/17. Intellectual property rights

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The responses to these questions relate, for the most part, to the agricultural sector.

Relevant technology is transferred to Israel on concessional or preferential terms within the framework of international cooperative research funds such as the US-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD) and those of the European Union (EU).

The rights and benefits of Contracting Parties who contribute genetic resources are generally expressed within the contractual agreements signed by the various parties.

Article 17 Exchange of information

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

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

Article 18 Technical and scientific cooperation

252. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
253. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					
*No further comments					
254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?					
a) no measures					
b) some measures in place					X
c) potential measures under review					
d) comprehensive measures in place					
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent					X
256. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?					
a) no					
b) early stages of development					X
c) advanced stages of development					
d) methods in place					
257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent					X
258. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?					
a) no					
b) yes - limited extent					
c) yes - significant extent					X

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

259. Is your country cooperating in the development and operation of the Clearing House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
260. Is your country helping to develop national capabilities through exchanging and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes - limited extent	X
c) yes - significant extent	
261. Has your country designated a national focal point for the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
262. Is your country providing resources for the development and implementation of the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) no	X
b) yes, at the national level	
c) yes, at national and international levels	
263. Is your country facilitating and participating in workshops and other expert meetings to further the development of the CHM at international levels?	
a) no	X
b) participation only	
c) supporting some meetings and participating	
264. Is your CHM operational	
a) no	X
b) under development	
c) yes (please give details below)	
265. Is your CHM linked to the Internet	
a) no	X
b) yes	
266. Has your country established a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary CHM steering committee or working group at the national level?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development actively pursues cooperative research and technical projects with other Contracting Parties, including the exchange of information and experts, with emphasis on the participation of developing countries. Once ready, Israel will make material available to the CHM.

Israel is currently initiating a new project in which ecological data will be made accessible to all interested parties through a new Internet site. In addition, in order to make taxonomic information more widely available, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has launched BioGIS, a Geographical Information System established to create a national database of the Israeli flora and fauna. The database is open to the public and provides advanced tools for querying, analyzing, modeling and visualizing patterns of species distribution in Israel.

These and other initiatives will eventually be incorporated into a Clearing House Mechanism for the country.

Article 19 Handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits

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

270. Has your country taken measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities by those Contracting Parties which provide the genetic resources for such research (19(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures:	
a) Legislation	
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation	
c) Policy and administrative measures	X
271. Has your country taken all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis by Contracting Parties to the results and benefits arising from biotechnologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Contracting Parties (19(2))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel intends to sign the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, having already drafted the necessary national legislation to enable compliance. The rights and benefits of Contracting Parties who contribute genetic resources are generally expressed within the contractual agreements signed by the various parties.

Article 20 Financial resources

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

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?	
a) no	X
b) yes - incentives only	
c) yes - financial support only	
d) yes - financial support and incentives	
If a developed country Party -	
276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes	
If a developed country Party -	
278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

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

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

282. Has your country established a process to monitor financial support to biodiversity?	
a) no	X
b) procedures being established	
c) yes (please provide details)	
283. Are details available of your country's financial support to national biodiversity activities?	
a) no	X
b) not in a standardized format	
c) yes (please provide details)	
284. Are details available of your country's financial support to biodiversity activities in other countries?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) not in a standardized format	
d) yes (please provide details)	
Developed country Parties -	
285. Does your country promote support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention in the funding policy of its bilateral funding institutions and those of regional and multilateral funding institutions?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
Developing country Parties -	
286. Does your country discuss ways and means to support implementation of the objectives of the Convention in its dialogue with funding institutions?	
a) no	
b) yes	

287. Has your country compiled information on the additional financial support provided by the private sector?	
a) no	
b) yes (please provide details)	
288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel's financial resources are very limited.

Article 21 Financial mechanism

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

None

Article 23 Conference of the Parties

293. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties?	
a) COP 1 (Nassau)	1
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	2
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	0
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	1
e) COP 5 (Nairobi)	1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

Israel participated in the regional meeting in Beijing.

Article 24 Secretariat

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

None

Article 25 Subsidiary body on scientific, technical and technological advice

300. How many people from your country participated in each of the meetings of SBSTTA?	
a) SBSTTA I (Paris)	0
b) SBSTTA II (Montreal)	0
c) SBSTTA III (Montreal)	0
d) SBSTTA IV (Montreal)	0
e) SBSTTA V (Montreal)	1

Further comments on implementation of this Article

No budget available.

Article 26 Reports

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

Decision IV/14 National reports

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

Decision V/19. National reporting

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

The Ministry of the Environment is currently updating its Internet site. Upon completion, the biodiversity report will be posted on the Internet:
www.environment.gov.il

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

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

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

310. Has your country included information on biological diversity in wetlands when providing information and reports to the CSD, and considered including inland water biological diversity issues at meetings to further the recommendations of the CSD?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
311. Has your country included inland water biological diversity considerations in its work with organizations, institutions and conventions affecting or working with inland water?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -	
312. When requesting support for projects relating to inland water ecosystems from the GEF, has your country given priority to identifying important areas for conservation, preparing and implementing integrated watershed, catchment and river basin management plans, and investigating processes contributing to biodiversity loss?	
a) no	
b) yes	
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes	

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

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

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

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

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

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

Israel is plagued by scarcity of water for domestic and agricultural supply, which has been aggravated in the past three years. Only about 3% of the former national wetlands still exist, mainly in nature reserves and national parks. The main targets are to maintain the supply of water to these wetlands through specific programs for each wetland. At present, about 16 different wetlands are under restoration, out of 160 proposed and declared wetlands. The main issue related to the restoration and enhancement of wetlands is the threat to biological diversity. Although an approved national plan does not exist due to the complexity of the problem, inland water systems are managed through specific and local plans, as a localized first aid solution. The average size of Israel's inland water systems ranges between a quarter of a hectare to ten hectares and the largest are between 50-300 hectares.

Israel participates in the European Aquatic Modeling Network and in RAMSAR and MedWet programs.

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

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

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

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

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

Mediterranean countries, including Israel, have recently proposed a project to the EU SMAP for developing a conservation strategy for Mediterranean marine and coastal reserves. In the Gulf of Aqaba, a binational project with Israel and Jordan, known as Research, Monitoring and Management of the Coral Reefs of the Red Sea under the united management of the Peace Park Project, has reached the mid-term stage. Efforts are geared toward a science-based management which will include the infrastructure for long-term monitoring and management based on ongoing surveillance. The outcome will serve the needs for conserving biological diversity in the Red Sea.

Israel is currently examining the possibility of using artificial reefs to protect species under threat in case of large-scale coral bleaching. It should be noted that this has not occurred as a wide phenomena in the Red Sea and is very restricted in the Mediterranean Sea.

Case studies on integrated marine and coastal area management have been prepared within the framework of the RAMSAR Convention.

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

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

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

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

341. Has your country reviewed the programme of work annexed to the decision and identified how you can collaborate in its implementation?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

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

349. Is your country collaborating with other Parties on the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
350. Is your country compiling case-studies and implementing pilot projects relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
351. Has information on scientific assessments relevant to genetic use restriction technologies been supplied to other Contracting Parties through media such as the Clearing-House Mechanism?	
a) not applicable	X
b) no	
c) yes - national report	
d) yes - through the CHM	
e) yes - other means (please give details below)	
352. Has your country considered how to address generic concerns regarding such technologies as genetic use restriction technologies under international and national approaches to the safe and sustainable use of germplasm?	
a) no	X
b) yes - under consideration	
c) yes - measures under development	
353. Has your country carried out scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) some assessments	
c) major programme of assessments	
354. Has your country disseminated the results of scientific assessments on <u>inter alia</u> ecological, social and economic effects of genetic use restriction technologies?	
a) no	X
b) yes - through the CHM	
c) yes - other means (please give details below)	
355. Has your country identified the ways and means to address the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies on the <u>in situ</u> and <u>ex situ</u> conservation and sustainable use, including food security, of agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) some measures identified	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive review completed	

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

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

Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promotes the conservation and sustainable use of agrobiodiversity components primarily through encouragement of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) research and practice, including reduced use of broad-spectrum pesticides, greater stress on biological control, and protection and enhancement of beneficial organisms. In addition, the Ministry supports the preservation (*in situ and ex situ*) of wild relatives of cultivated plants and the establishment of gene banks for crops of importance. In these areas of involvement, the Ministry is quite active in pursuing and implementing joint research projects with other Contracting Parties, technology transfer, and exchange of information and experts, with emphasis on the participation of developing countries. Within the framework of the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) for Israel, which was signed between Israel and the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP), a sustainable development strategy for agriculture was formulated.

MASHAV, the Center for International Cooperation of the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs initiates training courses and study tours in Israel and abroad on sustainable agricultural practices.

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the time of its establishment in 1948, most of the area of the country was deforested as a result of intensive use of the ground for agriculture and grazing. Israel is not a forested country but rather a transition area, and therefore afforestation is not part of the national mandate.

Afforestation activities began immediately after establishment of the State, mainly for landscape and recreational value, rather than biodiversity considerations. Problems have included cultivation techniques which include pest control, burning and plowing, introduction of alien species, densely planted pine forests in non-optimal environmental conditions, etc. At present, efforts by the Jewish National Fund and the Nature and National Parks Protection Authority increasingly relate to biodiversity considerations.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

Decision V/20. Operations of the Convention

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

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

The specific activities taken by Israel as a direct result of become a Contracting Party to the Convention include:

- 1) Translation of the Biodiversity Convention into Hebrew.
- 2) Preparation and submission of reports to the Secretariat.
- 3) Participation in conferences and meetings.
- 4) Organization of a target group on biodiversity, composed of a wide range of stakeholders from government, the private sector, academics and NGOs, within the process of developing a sustainable development strategy for Israel.
- 5) Preparation of guidelines, objectives and targets for a national biodiversity strategy for Israel.
- 6) Incorporation of biodiversity considerations in environmental impact assessments.
- 7) Incorporation of biodiversity considerations in national and regional master plans.
- 8) Collection of botanic data by the Nature and National Parks Protection Authority as part of an "Open Landscapes Plan" for Israel in order to provide an ecosystem assessment of the remaining open natural landscapes. The assessment is based on an evaluation of unique or rare elements, biodiversity of species and communities, and potential for sustainability based on size and connectivity to other areas. Israel's biodiversity approach is largely based on the preservation of corridors.
- 9) Promotion of the subject in the educational system.

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

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

To date, Israel has not given high priority to implementation of the Biodiversity Convention, largely due to political, social and regional circumstances. In addition, large-scale immigration to the country in the 1990s coupled by accelerated development has led to habitat fragmentation and ecosystem degradation. These circumstances have led to financial constraints and to the allocation of inadequate financial resources for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

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

None

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

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

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

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

The Ministry of the Environment will review the implementation of the Convention in Israel.