Second National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

ESTONIA

Estonian Ministry of the Environment

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Introductory tables

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

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Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	√
Date of submission:	√

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

The practical arrangements for the drafting of the second national report started in August 2001. Drafting process was delayed because of the financing uncertainties. The Ministry of the Environment (MoE) had selected the Stockholm Environment Institute Tallinn Centre, Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development, (SEI-Tallinn) to coordinate the drafting process. SEI-Tallinn had involved nine local experts to collect baseline data, contact various sources of information, make interviews and provide up-to-date data on the progress of implementation of CBD in many of its sectors and topic areas in Estonia. These contributing experts were:

1. Ms Kaja Peterson, Programme Director, SEI-Tallinn (responsible for overall coordination)
2. Mr Mart Külvik, Head, Nature Conservation Research Centre, Institute for Environmental Protection, Estonian Agricultural University
3. Prof Erkki Truve, Professor, Head of Department, Centre for Gene Technology, Tallinn Technical University
4. Dr Henn Ojaveer – Senior Researcher, Estonian Marine Institute, Tartu University
5. Ms Haldja Viinalass – Head, Laboratory of Genetics, Department of Animal Science, Estonian Agricultural University
6. Ms Imbi Henno – Senior Specialist, Ministry of Education
7. Mr Ken Kalling – Director of Science, History Museum, Tartu University
8. Mr Lauri Klein – Expert of European Environmental Agency on nature conservation and biodiversity, Environmental Information Centre, Estonian Ministry of Environment
9. Mrs Liina Eek-Piirsoo – Senior Specialist, Nature Conservation Department, Estonian Ministry of Environment

MoE had previously supervised the drafting of six other CBD-related documents, which facilitated the compilation of some chapters of the 2nd national report. These documents were:

1. Forest Biodiversity (compiled by M. Külvik, 2001)
2. Traditional Knowledge (compiled by K. Kalling, 2001)
3. Benefit Sharing (role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit sharing arrangements) (compiled by K. Truve, 2001)
4. Alien species (compiled by L. Eek-Piirsoo, 2000)
5. Liability and redress (information on Estonian national, international and regional measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage caused to biological diversity) (compiled by K. Kõrm, 2001)
6. Information in regard of existing practices, rules and standards relevant to Article 18 (handling, transport, packaging and identification) of the Cartagena Protocol and information regarding capacity-building needs, priorities and existing initiatives on capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol (compiled by L. Eek-Piirsoo, 2001).

Other documents, which have been used as sources of information or reference in this report are the following:

* National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (compiled and edited by T. Kull, 1999, MoE, UNEP)

* First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. 1998. Ministry of Environment, SEI-Tallinn.

* National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) 2001-2003. Ministry of Environment,

Tallinn, 2001.

* Environmental Performance Review: Estonia (draft). UN ECE, Geneva, 2001.

* National Environmental Strategy. Ministry of Environment, Tallinn, 1997.

* National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) 1998-2000. Ministry of Environment, Tallinn, 1998.

The following institutions were involved in the drafting process of the 2nd national report:

*Ministry of the Environment (MoE)
*Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)
*Ministry of Education
*Tartu University (TU)
*Tallinn Pedagogical University (TPU)
*Estonian Agricultural University (EAU)
*Tallinn Technical University (TTU)
*Estonian Marine Institute (EMI)
*Estonian Environmental Information Centre (EEIC)
*Estonian Institute for Sustainable Development (SEI-Tallinn)

Ministry of the Environment had convened a roundtable on 17 October 2001 to discuss the draft of the 2nd National Report with a wider group of stakeholders, the result of which was taken into account in the final version of the report. The participants of the round table were representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Tartu University, Estonian Agricultural University, Estonian Marine Institute, Inspection of Plant Protection, Environmental Information Centre, and Estonian Environmental Investments Centre.

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

The team of experts had followed the Guidelines for National Reports on drafting the report, and the proposals made by experts and the participants of the roundtable meeting on 17 October 2001.

Followed by that, the answers to and evaluation of the questions on the "relative priority afforded to the implementation of this article and the associated decisions by the country" correspond to the availability of national legislation, national programmes or schemes adopted or drafted. Whereas the answers to and evaluation of "the extent the resources available are adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made" reflect the specialist and institutional resources, as well as financial resources made available via national or local governments' budgets to implement the legislation, programmes and schemes.

Estonia has been classified as a "party with economy in transition" in this report.

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

Inland water ecosystems

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

Marine and coastal biological diversity

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

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

Forest biological diversity

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

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

Further comments on work programmes and priorities

1.-6. The overall priorities for biodiversity conservation in Estonia are set in the *National Environmental Strategy* (NES - 1997):

This strategy specifies the trends and priority goals of environmental management and protection, and sets the main short-term and long-term tasks to be achieved by 2000 and 2010 respectively. NES proceeds from the main traditional goal of environmental protection – which is to provide people with a healthy environment and natural resources necessary to promote economic development without causing significant damage to nature, and to preserve the diversity of landscapes and biodiversity while taking into consideration the level of economic development. The priorities presented in the strategy are taken into account when planning environmental activities, developing international cooperation and allocating national funds.

Estonian Environmental Strategy contains the following aim on the maintenance of biodiversity and landscapes.

Goal: to ensure preservation of viable populations of local plant and animal species, natural and semi-natural communities and landscapes typical of Estonia.

Tasks by the year 2000:

- to improve protection of plant and animal species, their habitats and landscapes in accordance with revised legislation, bearing in mind international agreements and European Union requirements;
- to improve the existing network of nature reserves in accordance with the EU recommendations in order to ensure protection of ecosystems;
- to establish a network of protected forests according to nature conservation criteria thus ensuring preservation of all natural and semi-natural forest types and communities.

Tasks by the year 2010:

- to establish a network of nature reserves corresponding to EU recommendations where zones of strict protection (strict nature reserves and special management zones) would cover up to 5 percent of the terrestrial area of Estonia.

7. Forest biological diversity attains rather high priority in Estonia. Forest sector has prepared several through the recent years several policy documents (Forest policy (1997), Forest Development Plan (draft due Nov, 2001) which include substantive biodiversity component. Several successful projects have been or are in run (Estonian Forest Development Plan, Estonian Forest Protected Area Network, Woodland Key Habitats Inventory, *etc*). The national forest certification system is just currently starting to work. The Sustainable Forest Standard was completed in 2000.

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	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

11. Estonia is a Party to Baltic Sea Environment Protection Convention Helsinki Convention) from 1994, Convention on Fisheries and the Protection of Fish Resources in the Baltic Sea and Protection of Belts (Gdansk Convention) from 1992, Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) from 1993, Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris Convention) from 1992, Convention on Biological Diversity from 1994 and Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention) from 1992, and the Washington Convention from 1993.

The Estonian Parliament has ratified the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context (1991) on 7 October 1999. The Estonian Parliament ratified the Arhus Convention (1998) on 6 June 2001.

Estonia has participated in the preparation and implementation of the Action Plan for European Protected Areas (Parks for Life, 1994), Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1996) and is involved in the establishment of the Pan-European Ecological network.

A project "An Integrated Management of Lake Peipsi Watershed" conducted in 1997-1998 was targeted towards the joint efforts of Estonia and the Russian Federation to manage the fifth largest lake in Europe in a sustainable way.

Cooperation activities have been implemented or will start in very nearest future on following topics with the countries listed below:

1. Protection and management of traditional rural landscapes in Nordic and Baltic Countries (Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania) – Nordic Council of Ministers project, having contribution from every participatory country, started at 1999 and continuing at least until 2003.
2. Nature Monitoring Scheme for Nordic and Baltic countries (Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) – Nordic Council of Ministers project, having contribution from every participatory country, started at 1997 and ended at 2000.
3. Information exchange in European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET) system for European Environment Agency through European Topic Centre of Nature Protection and Biodiversity and its Phare Topic Link (all member states of EU and all Phare countries) – cooperation through national focal points (NFP) and national reference centres (NRC) – Estonian NFP and NRC for nature conservation and biodiversity are nominated at 1998 in Estonian Environment Information Centre.
4. Cooperation between National Focal Points of Clearinghouse Mechanisms for the Convention on Biological Diversity (NFP/CHM-CBD) of Denmark, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – Possible Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe (DANCEE) project planned to start in nearest future.

12. The annual membership fee of Estonia to CBD is 1000USD, which is allocated from the state budget via MoE. It is usually one representative from Estonia participating in topic meetings, as well as regional and SBSTTA meetings. Estonia has participated thematic work programmes (*e.g.* forest programme).

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

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

14. Has your country developed effective cooperation for the sustainable management of transboundary watersheds, 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	
b) to a limited extent	
c) to a significant extent	X

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

13. Estonia has signed bilateral agreements in the field of environmental protection with Denmark (1991), Poland, Sweden and Finland (1992), Germany (1993), Austria (1994), Byelorussia (1995), Slovak Republic (1996). Trilateral Agreement between the Environmental Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was signed in 1995.

14.-15. An Estonian-Russian Intergovernmental Transboundary Water Commission was established in 1998 in accordance with the Estonian - Russian Bilateral Agreement on Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters. The process of preparation of the Lake Peipsi Watershed Management Plan is proceeding under the direction of the Transboundary Water Commission. Lake Peipsi is the fourth largest lake in Europe; with a surface area of 3555 km^2 and it is the largest international lake in Europe.

A transboundary nature reserve –Sookuninga (3847 ha) was established on the Estonian and Latvian border in 1999. A management plan has been drafted.

16. DIVERSITAS and IBOY in Estonia: a special national committee has been established in spring 2001 by Estonian Academy of Sciences. There are members from governmental institutions, scientists and members from NGOs.

17. Under supervision of the Estonian Government, the progress report to the Earth Meeting 2002 (Johannesburg Earth Summit 2002) will be prepared. Biodiversity issues will be discussed in the chapter on the environment.

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	X	b) Medium		c) Low	

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

18. Important steps in the implementation of this article were the Act on Sustainable Development and the National Environmental Strategy adopted by the Estonian Parliament in February 1995 and March 1997 respectively. Article 9 of the *Sustainable Development Act* sets the basis for the CBD implementation.

Following logically from the Environmental Strategy, the *National Environmental Action Plan* has been prepared during the years 1997 to 1998 to elaborate in detail the actions necessary to implement the ten policy goals of the NES. An equal emphasis has been put on development of the NEAP document with well formulated and prioritised actions supported by financial plan, human resources plan, clear time-frames, responsibilities and likely sources of funding, as well as the NEAP process developed in line with the subsidiarity principle, involving a wide range of stakeholders in active consultation and participation.

The updated National Environmental Action Plan for years 2001 to 2003, adopted in 5 June 2001, include the obligation to update and adopt the Biodiversity Action Plan (prepared during 1998 to 1999 with UNEP support). The following activities with medium priority are foreseen in NEAP for 2001-2003:
9.1.10. Fulfilling of sustainable forestry and forest protection part of forestry development plan;
9.1.11. Fulfilling of national agri-environmental programme and its pilot phase;
9.1.12. Make recommendations for additions into national transportation development plan (about wildlife protection measures);
9.1.13. Compile fish protection development plan.
National Programme "Estonian Natura2000 for the years 2000-2007" was adopted by the Government in July 2000. This programme is necessary precondition for joining European Union. It is related with general nature protection policy and implementation of CBD.
Programme on Plant Genetic Resources is currently under preparation by MoA.

19. Resources are limited: from the actions listed in the first version of the Estonian Biodiversity Action Plan only 40 percent have or are likely to have secured financing.

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed	X
e) completed and adopted	
f) reports on implementation available	
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) completed	X
e) completed and adopted	

f) reports on implementation available	
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	
b) most articles	
c) all articles	X
23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	
c) all major sectors	X
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	X
d) fully coordinated	
e) not applicable	
27. Has your country set measurable targets within its strategies and action plans?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	
If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition - 28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	UNEP

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

20. *Estonian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan* was prepared during 1998 - 1999. Estonian NBSAP consists of two parts: first, textual part is the Strategy and the second part comprises tables of 13 sectoral action plans. The strategy part gives the overview about the current situation, identifies the gaps and constraints of implementation of CBD in Estonia, but it also gives recommendations for future activities. These recommendations are incorporated into the sectoral actions plans where concrete actions, responsible institutions, time schedule, budget and the possible or existing resources are identified. MoE is planning to submit the Action Plan for adoption by the Government (see Q21).

21. National Biodiversity Action Plan first completed in 1999. All sectoral action plans out of 13 have been up-dated and finalised in the beginning of 2002, and the AP would be adopted in 2002.

22.-23. Estonian NBSAP covers all the articles of CBD. The structure of NBSAP does not follow exactly the structure of the convention. NBSAP is divided into different thematic sectors: nature protection, genetic resources and biotechnology, education, transport, industry, landscape aspects in planning and land management, agriculture, forestry, hunting, fishery, national defence, border control, tourism. The main objective of the AP was to bridge different sectors in the implementation of CBD.

24. It has become a tradition that periodically specialists of three Baltic ministries and research institutes gather to the Baltic Conference on Environmental Conventions where the progress of implementation of CBD is being discussed. Such conferences were first held in 1993, and in 2001 the fourth meeting took place in Estonia.

25. Many of the strategies and action plans include an international cooperation component, but the extent of this varies in different sectors.

26. Joint preparation of management plans for cross-border nature protection areas (*e.g.* Sookuninga NR) with Latvia is in progress.

27. Biodiversity Action Plan has set measurable targets for each of the 13 sectors involved. Each of the sectoral action plans comprises 2-6 targets to be met.

28. Estonia has received two grants from UNEP/GEF, such as: GF/0313-94-67 "Assistance for the Preparation of Biodiversity Country Study in the Republic of Estonia" and GF/1200/96/51 "National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report on the Convention on Biological Diversity". The last project has also received funding for follow-up of the project titled "Assessment of Capacity-building Needs for Biodiversity and Participation in CHM in Estonia".

29. The contact persons of CBD, Ramsar, Bonn Convention and CITES are specialists all working in the Department of Nature Conservation of MoE. The contact persons have good cooperation and mutual information exchange, thus and duplication should be effectively avoided.

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	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

30. Identification of priority components of biological diversity has mostly been conducted by compiling and up-dating of lists of protected species for the annexes of the *Act on Protected Nature Objects* (1994), and also by setting up Red Data Lists for the *National Red Data Book* published in 1979, 1988, 1998. Endangered species have thus been covered relatively well, while nationally approved list of threatened habitat types is missing. Several projects financed by international donors have been launched to identify habitat types in need of protection. Availability of financial resources for identification of spatial components of biological diversity (*e.g.* habitats, landscapes) has been severely limited, compared to those for species.

National Biological Diversity Monitoring Programme gained legal status in Estonia in 1994. After 4 years of implementation, a need for improvements became obvious. In 1998, a Phare Project: "Establishment of GIS based Biodiversity Monitoring System for Estonia" was conducted. This project also included identification of biological diversity components for further monitoring. The main efforts were put into monitoring of habitats, but even landscape and species level components were monitored. Genome level monitoring was not planned at that stage, since the national financial resources were limited. Only minimum requirements for 47 monitoring programmes, addressing the most important components of biological diversity, were set. As a result of this project, a *Biodiversity Monitoring Master Plan* for Estonia was completed and will be approved by the Government.

31. In the *Estonian National Environmental Action Plan for 2001-2003* certain monitoring activities are foreseen:
9.1.28. Detect juridical status of national biological and landscape diversity monitoring programme and approve that programme legally (financing expected);
9.2.1. Evaluate the fulfilment of national biological and landscape diversity programme and introduce amendments into the programme" (financial resources not available);
9.2.2. Integrate monitoring data with general national information system on nature (50 percent of financial resources available);
9.2.3. Elaborate and make state system of indicators for biological and landscape diversity operational, integrate those indicators into monitoring system (financial resources not available).
Compared to the financing of other programmes of environmental monitoring, the financing of biodiversity monitoring scheme has shown a slight increase since 1994, but it is far from satisfactory in meeting the obligations set by the CBD (Art. 7).

Maintaining and analysis of monitoring and identification data, MoE has established a general national information system – *Estonian Nature Information System (*EELIS) - a database containing material obtained through biological diversity inventories and monitoring programmes. Data in national nature conservation register is also made available in EELIS. The NEAP for 2001-2003 foresees the following activities (specified as of medium priority):
9.2.17. Educate regularly environmentalists and planners to use Estonian Nature Information System (33 percent of financial resources are available);
9.2.18. Develop and operate Estonian Nature Information System at all administrative levels (33 percent of financial resources are available).

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	X
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	X
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
35. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at species level (7a)?	
a) minimal activity	
b) for key groups (such as threatened or endemic species) or indicators	X
c) for a range of major groups	
d) for a comprehensive range of species	
36. Does your country have ongoing monitoring programmes at ecosystem level (7b)?	
a) minimal activity	
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	X
b) minor programme in some sectors	
c) major programme in some sectors	
d) major programme in all relevant sectors	
38. Has your country identified activities with adverse affects on biodiversity (7c)?	
a) limited understanding	X
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	X
e) reports on implementation available	

Decision III/10 Identification, monitoring and assessment

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

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	
c) extensive co-operation on some issues	X
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	
b) yes - sent to the Secretariat	
c) yes – through the national CHM	
d) yes – other means (please specify)	X
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

32. A few specialised, but large-scale inventories have been carried out recently, *e.g.* "Internationally Important Species in Estonia. National Inventories of Internationally Important Species and Habitats in relation to International Conventions and Directives. 1998-2000. Estonia", compiled by Estonian Fund for Nature and financed by DANCEE. There are ongoing inventories for mammals (compilation of Distribution Atlas of Mammals in Estonia), vascular plants (Distribution maps of vascular plants in Estonia) and some groups of invertebrates. Inventories are carried out by non-governmental specialised organisations. Distribution Atlas of Breeding Birds was compiled by Estonian Ornithological Society in 1977 to 1988 and published at 1993.

33. Recently the following ecosystem level inventories have been conducted: Inventory of alvars (by universities of Uppsala (Sweden) and Tartu, in 1992–1994); Inventory of old forest types (by Estonian Fund for Nature, in 1993-1996); Inventory of coastal and floodplain meadows (by Estonian Fund for Nature, in 1993-1996); Inventory of wooded meadows (by Estonian Fund for Nature, in 1995-1996); Inventory of wetland types (by MoE, in 1997-1998); Inventory of all grassland types (by Estonian Fund for Nature, in 1998-2000); Inventory of valuable forest sites and establishment of forest conservation area network in Estonia (by Estonian Forest Centre, 1996-2000); Inventory of traditional rural biotopes in Lääne County (by Estonian Semi-natural Communities Conservation Association, 1999-2000).

34., 37. No inventories on genetic level have currently been made. Inventory programmes on some genera of fungi (by U. Kõljalg), higher plants (by S. Sepp) and mammals (by A. Karis) have been initiated.

35. *Estonian National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme* (NBMP) contains the following species level monitoring programmes (total of 22 projects): threatened vascular plants (ca 100 species in ca 300 sites); protected vascular plants and habitat directive species (ca 100 species in ca 200 sites); threatened mosses (12 species); protected mosses and habitat directive species (19 species); wildlife species (23 species in ca 20 sites); ungulates (4 species in 7 sites); seals (2 species in 12 sites); otter (in 20 sites); European beaver (in 20 sites); flying squirrel (in 5+15 sites); bat species (11 species in 25+5 sites); birds of prey (23 species in 10 sites); eagles and Black Stork (7 species in ca 780 sites); tetraonid birds (3 species in 10 sites); geese, swans and Common Crane (12 species in ca 100 sites); White Stork (in ca 70 sites); woodpeckers (7 species in 3 sites); mid-winter waterfowl census (all bird species in ca 100 sites); amphibians (8 species in 12 sites); threatened insects (23 species in ca 30 sites); Freshwater Pearl-Mussel (in the only site of occurrence) and crayfish (in 20 sites).

36. NBMP contains the following ecosystem monitoring projects: coastal landscapes (26 sites); mire and forest landscapes (5 sites); rural landscapes (18 sites); plant communities of alvars (20 sites); plant communities of heath lands (10 sites); plant communities of boreo-nemoral grasslands incl. wooded meadows (20 sites); bee communities of wooded meadows (20 sites); ground-living insect and small mammal communities of grasslands (4 sites); plant communities of floodplain grasslands (10 sites); plant communities of coastal meadows (20 sites); butterfly communities of coastal meadows (4 sites); bird communities of coastal and floodplain meadows (26 sites); plant communities of field borders (10 sites); pollinator communities of cultivated grasslands (8 sites); bird communities of cultivated grasslands and fields (20 sites); plant communities of raised bogs (20 sites); plant communities of fens (10 sites); bird communities of mires (16 sites); dead wood and saproxylic fungi of old forests (20 sites); plant communities of dry and fresh forests (15 sites); plant communities of floodplain forests (5 sites); bird communities of selected forest types – dry, fresh and floodplain forests (40 sites); moth communities of selected forest types – coniferous and mixed forests (12 sites); mollusc communities of selected forest types – dry boreal pine forests, fresh boreal spruce forests and fresh boreo-nemoral deciduous/mixed forests (40 sites); ant communities of selected forest types (8 sites); saproxylophagous insects of selected forests (20 sites).

38., 39. The activities with adverse affects on biodiversity have been identified in NBSAP (1999). In the NEAP for 2001-2003 the following activity was foreseen (identified as of low priority activity):
9.4.14. Determination of negative impact of human activities to biological diversity in Estonia (assessment of impact on vertebrate species and their habitats, in the first phase) (financial resources not available, however).

40. Since 1994, monitoring data has been collected and stored in the central national database managed by EEIC. Until recently, this data was not organised into one database, but kept in paper form in different folders and others in electronic form. Data on inventories of several habitat types was stored electronically in different responsible institutions, mainly in the Estonian Fund for Nature. Establishment of a general national level information system of all data on nature was started in 1999. The database includes data on monitoring, inventories, nature conservation register *etc*. The information system is called *Estonian Nature Information System* (EELIS). In addition to the data on nature conservation areas and protected species, it will also include monitoring data and data obtained from inventories. The database is GIS-based (built into MapInfo software) and provides the user with multi-level data. Part of the database is also publicly accessible via internet at www.eelis.ee.

41. A preliminary set of biodiversity indicators (included in the set of environmental indicators as sub-indicators) for all three Baltic States (incl. Estonia) was developed in 1996 to 1998 and published in the *Baltic State of Environment Report* by the Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF). The report includes a separate chapter on biological diversity and the data provided is based on indicators, described by Pressure-Status-Response (PSR) model. The next report was compiled in 1998 to 2000, and an updated set of indicators (Driving force-Pressure-Status-Impact-Response (DPSIR) model) was applied. Beside the BEF initiative, a national initiative was taken to create a national set of environmental indicators for Estonia (incl. biodiversity indicators). In NEAP for 2001-2003 the following activity was foreseen (classified as of medium priority): 9.2.3. Elaborate and make operational the national system of indicators for biological and landscape diversity, and integrating those indicators into the monitoring system (no financial resources have yet been made available).

42. Rapid assessment of remote sensing techniques has not been used systematically.

43. The Biodiversity Country Study (1996-1998) identified biodiversity components, whereas the NBSAP (1999) provided the overview of impacts having adverse effect on them. Adverse impacts have also been discussed in specific documents, such as the draft of the *Estonian Forest Development Plan*.

44. Estonia has participated in elaboration of a common set of environmental indicators (incl. biodiversity indicators) for the Baltic States under the auspices of BEF since 1996. In cooperation with Finland, the Baltic Nature Monitoring Scheme was elaborated.

45. Two reports on indicators published by BEF (mentioned in Q41) were printed in 1998 and 2000 (in English) and made available for other parties. Bilingual (Estonian and English) annual reports on the results of state environmental monitoring in years 1994 to 1998 have been published. Results of all the above-mentioned inventory activities have been published in English and made available through reference libraries. Indicator-based data in the *Estonian State of Environment Report* (incl. biodiversity chapter) is also available to the general public on the Internet.

46. Once the project on establishment of the CHM is launched and the CHM become operational, taxonomic information from various collections would be available.

47. See Q13, Q44.

48. See Q45.

49. Since the establishment of the *National Biodiversity Monitoring Programme* in 1998 (Q13 and Q35-37, 41), the Estonian experts have consulted the Lithuanian colleagues to elaborate their common set of environmental indicators (incl. biodiversity indicators) in 1996-2000 and this work is continuing. Elaboration of the *Baltic Nature Monitoring Scheme* has been carried out in cooperation with Finland. Estonian experts have contributed to the development of environmental indicators for the Baltic States in the framework of BEF activities (see www.bef.lv).

Decisions on Taxonomy

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

50. Has your country carried out a national taxonomic needs assessment, and/or held workshops to determine national taxonomic priorities?	
a) no	
b) early stages of assessment	X
c) advanced stages of assessment	
d) assessment completed	
51. Has your country developed a national taxonomic action plan?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) action plan in place	
e) reports on implementation available	
52. Is your country making available appropriate resources to enhance the availability of taxonomic information?	
a) no	X
b) yes, but this does not cover all known needs adequately	
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	X
b) some opportunities	
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	X
b) yes – stated policy	
c) yes – systematic national programme	
56. Has your country adopted any international agreed levels of collection housing?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) being implemented by some collections	
d) being implemented by all major collections	

57. Has your country provided training programmes in taxonomy?	
a) no	
b) some	X
c) many	
58. Has your country reported on measures adopted to strengthen national capacity in taxonomy, to designate national reference centres, and to make information housed in collections available to countries of origin?	
a) no	X
b) yes – in the previous national report	
c) yes – via the clearing-house mechanism	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	
59. Has your country taken steps to ensure that institutions responsible for biological diversity inventories and taxonomic activities are financially and administratively stable?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes for some institutions	
d) yes for all major institutions	
60. Has your country assisted taxonomic institutions to establish consortia to conduct regional projects?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	
d) yes – significant extent	
61. Has your country given special attention to international funding of fellowships for specialist training abroad or for attracting international experts to national or regional courses?	
a) no	
b) under review	
c) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
62. Has your country provided programmes for re-training of qualified professionals moving into taxonomy-related fields?	
a) no	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	X
b) basic assessment	
c) thorough assessment	
64. Has your country established or consolidated taxonomic reference centres?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
65. Has your country worked to increase its capacity in the area of taxonomic research?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
66. Has your country communicated information on programmes, projects and initiatives for consideration as pilot projects under the Global Taxonomy Initiative to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
67. Has your country designated a national Global Taxonomy Initiative focal point linked to other national focal points?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
68. Has your country participated in the development of regional networks to facilitate information-sharing for the Global Taxonomy Initiative?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition - 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	X

Further comments on implementation of these decisions

50. The *Red Data Book of Estonia* (1998) identifies the most endangered taxonomic groups in Estonia. These are: the amphibians (45 percent of species in the group identified as endangered), mosses (38 percent), fish (36 percent), crayfish (36 percent), vertebrates (28 percent) and vascular plants (21 percent).

52. The need for such resources has been expressed in NBSAP, but since this document has not been officially adopted, no systematic funding is available.

53. No such training has been organised nationally, but experts have had opportunities to participate in international courses via personal or institutional contacts.

54. The need for such an investment into national taxonomic collections, but no funding has been available yet.

57. No such training programmes have been established by the state, but specialised research institutions (*e.g.* Institute of Zoology and Botany *etc*) and NGOs (*e.g.* Estonian Ornithological Society, Estonian Teriological Society) have organised such courses either for their members.

58. National references on taxonomy were established in the framework of implementing CITES. Tallinn Zoo and Tallinn Botanical Gardens have been appointed as reference centres for animals and plants, respectively.

59. The research institutions, which carry out biodiversity inventories and taxonomic activities, are part of state-funded universities. NGOs work on project-basis.

61. The specialists have sought funding for training abroad individually, whereas invitations of many speakers to the seminars, workshops and conferences on taxonomic groups have been facilitated by MoE.

64. Yes (See Q58).

69. Estonia has applied for additional funding from GEF/UNEP for launching national CHM-CBD; activities of that project include also the founding of taxonomic working-groups.

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	X	b) Medium		c) Low	

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

70. Nature conservation has long traditions in Estonia. The first protected area was established on the islands of Vaika in West Estonia in 1910. A comprehensive network of protected areas (314) covering the whole country exists today. 17 PAAs and 15 CEDs manage the protected areas.

MoE has launched the establishment of Natura 2000 network as part of the EU accession process. Current network of protected areas will be expanded in area and protection goals. More attention will be paid to the protection of habitats. Estonian Forest Conservation Network and Forest Key Biotopes contribute to the *in-situ* conservation of species and habitats.

A new *Nature Conservation Act* is currently prepared to meet the legal requirements of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives.

71. The annual state budget for nature conservation is 1 million USD, *i.e.* 3.9 percent of the total budget allocated to MoE in 2001. This sum is regarded as adequate to meet the administration needs, but does not cover development and management costs of the semi-natural habitats.

72. Has your country established a system of protected areas which aims to conserve biological diversity (8a)?	
a) system under development	
b) national review of protected areas coverage available	
c) national protected area systems plan in place	
d) relatively complete system in place	X

73. Are there nationally adopted guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of protected areas (8b)?	
a) no	
b) no, under development	
c) yes	
d) yes, undergoing review and extension	X

74. Does your country regulate or manage biological resources important for the conservation of biological diversity with a view to ensuring their conservation and sustainable use (8c)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	X
e) reports on implementation available	

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

81. Has your country developed and maintained the necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations (8k)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	X
82. Does your country regulate or manage processes and categories of activities identified under Article 7 as having significant adverse effects on biological diversity (8l)?	
a) no	
b) under review	X
c) yes, to a limited extent	X
d) yes, to a significant extent	
If a developed country Party - 83. Does your country cooperate in providing financial and other support for *in- situ* conservation particularly to developing countries (8m)? ***If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -*** 84. Does your country receive financial and other support for *in-situ* 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	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

72. The *Protected Natural Objects Act* (1994, 1998) sets the principles of founding the protected areas, specifies their type (national park, nature reserve, protected landscape reserve and programme area), three types of management zones and conservation, and rights and obligations of the area managers.

314 protected areas (2001), covering 10.8 percent of the Estonian territory exist, 129 of which have newly adopted protection rules. Ten sites are in the Ramsar list. Another 10 to 30 sites have been identified and will be proposed to the Ramsar Convention Bureau for inclusion in the list.

Department of Nature Conservation of MoE is the overall responsible authority for the protected areas. County Environmental Departments (CED - 15) and Protected Area Administrations (PAA - 17) manage areas within their authority.

The Estonian Government has adopted a state programme on the establishment of Natura 2000 in the years 2000 to 2007 in Estonia. SPAs and pSCIs will be selected and proposed to the European Commission for consideration on the date of accession to the EU. It is anticipated that the current extent of the protected areas may expand. Amended structure, procedure of designation and management of sites will be stipulated in the new *Nature Conservation Act*, which is currently drafted.

73. The *Protected Natural Objects Act* (1994, 1998) is the main nature conservation act, which stipulates the four types of protected areas, the procedures of establishment and management of these areas. There are also regulatory acts, which set the procedure of compilation and approval of management plans, both for species and habitats.

74. The *Forest Act* (1998), *Earth Crust Act* (1994), *Water Act* (1994), *Fishing Act* (1995), and *Hunting Act* (1994) regulate the utilisation and protection of these resources.

75. In addition to the legal framework, network of protected areas, schemes to rehabilitate semi-natural habitats (such as coastal meadows, wooded meadows, alluvial meadows, alvars *etc*) exist, thus restoring species diversity of these areas. By direct allocation from the state budget, the farmers are encouraged to mow and graze the abandoned and overgrown habitats. In 2001, 1.2 MEUR was allocated from the state budget for measures carried out all over the country. Two EU Life III funded projects were started in 2001 to restore semi-natural habitats on western coast of Estonia. The third Life-funded project aims at supporting the long-term effort to re-introduce the European mink into its natural habitat. This project was developed under the auspices of Tallinn Zoo. Tallinn Zoo has also been the source centre for reproduction of another endangered species of Estonia – the Natterjack Toad.

76. *The Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Auditing Act* was adopted in June 2000 and enforced on 1 January 2001. The law sets the procedures for conducting and supervision of EIA. The law also specifies the need for assessing the environmental impact of a proposed activity depending on its location (Art.6 p.3). The requirement to initiate EIA, if the proposed development is designed in the vicinity of a protected area, is set in the *Protected Natural Objects Act*.

77. Over 150 sq. km of land has been degraded by oil shale open and underground mining activities and dumping of ash into heaps from oil shale fired power plants in north-eastern Estonia. These areas have partially been restored by aforestation. Another group of degraded lands are the territories of former Soviet military bases. An inventory of military objects included 2900 sites that have been to some extent contaminated with chemicals, metals, minerals, derelict constructions, wood and domestic waste and oil pollution. Destruction of nature had also occurred depending on the location and purpose of the military base. On the other hand, the restricted zones existing for over 50 years helped to maintain large natural areas without human impact, in particular coastal areas.

78. Recovery plans of the European Mink and the Natterjack Toad are underway with financial support from the EU Life III.

79. The *Deliberate Release of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment Act* was adopted in 1999. The law sets the principles and procedures of handling GMOs in case of their deliberate release into the environment. MoE is authorised to grant licences for the release.

80. The *Sustainable Development Act* (1995) stipulates the division of natural resources into recoverable and non-recoverable resources. It also prescribes the obligation to conduct EIA to avoid over-exploitation of natural resources. Environmental authorities issue permits for extraction of minerals and water and felling of trees. However, no levels of use of natural resources have been officially set. The draft *National Forest Development Plan* (NFDP) is attempting to set the annual felling limits, but has already been criticised by the timber industry. The acceptance of the NFDP is expected in late 2001.

81. The *Protected Natural Objects Act* (1994) set three categories of protected species. Category I list comprises 10 most endangered animal species (such as eagles, Black Stork, Flying Squirrel, Fresh Water Mussel) and 22 species of vascular plants. 228 species are listed under Category II and 279 species under Category III. The law also stipulates the need for management plan for species recovery. Management plans for White-tailed Eagle, Lesser and Great Spotted Eagles, Fresh Water Mussel have been adopted. Management plan for the *Capercaillie* is being prepared.

82. As referred in Q76, the *EIA Act* (2000) does not exclusively stipulate the need for EIA of proposed developments either in or out of a protected area. However, the *Protected Natural Objects Act* (Art.9 p.9) requires EIA if the activity outside the borders of a protected object may impose a threat.

84. The state budget for management of protected areas comprised 3.9 percent of the

total budget of MoE in 2001. Estonian Environmental Investment Centre has a special programme on nature conservation, with annual budget 746,706 USD in 2001, of which 65 percent was allocated to *in-situ* management (management plans, management activities, site assessments and compiling new protection rules for protected areas), 35 percent of the total budget of nature protection programme was allocated for infrastructure development.

International grants have been used in the framework of bilateral projects between DANCEE and MoE, *e.g.* to develop management plans of Soomaa National Park and Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve. DANCEE financial support has been used to establish the Estonian Forest Protected Area Network (EFCAN). The Swedish Government has supported the identification and establishment of Estonian forest key biotopes. In 1999, an inventory of these key biotopes was completed and 3000 sites were identified, covering 6000 hectares of land. Management of these sites will be based on voluntary contracts between MoE and landowner. 40 contracts (120 ha) have been signed to date.

EU accession process has initiated the establishment of Natura 2000 network in Estonia. The selection of SPAs and SCIs is facilitated by the Dutch Government, DANCEE and the European Commission.

85. Information is exchanged through joint projects (see Q84).

Article 8h Alien species

86. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium		c) Low	X

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

86.-87. The *Protected Natural Objects Act* (Art. 20, p.4) prohibits introduction of alien species into nature, excluding re-introduction, the latter requires authorization from the Minister of the Environment.

The *Estonian Biodiversity Action Plan* (1999) contains several activities related to the alien species but funding is limited for implementation. These activities are:

- Analysis of the ecological and economic influences of non-native species along with assessment of future distribution and possible control mechanisms, this action is ranked as of the highest priority (I priority class among three classes), but there is currently no funding for that neither from state budget nor from other sources.
- Economic incentives to stimulate the hunting of the Raccoon Dog and the American Mink (ranked as I priority action), but this action will be excluded from the updated version of the Action Plan to be adopted by the Government.
- In fisheries sector: Sanctions and penalty fines for introduction of alien species and forms (II priority action) have to be developed and introduced, but no funds have been made available for implementation.
- Publication about alien species in Estonian waters (specified as a II priority action). A brochure on Estonian alien species, including aquatic species, was published in 2001, financed from the state budget.
- Applied research on distribution of alien species in Estonian water bodies and their impact on local ecosystems (II priority action), 50 percent of costs are available.

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

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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	X
b) yes	

97. In dealing with the issue of invasive species, has your country developed or involved itself in mechanisms for international co-operation, including the exchange of best practices?	
a) no	
b) trans-boundary co-operation	
c) regional co-operation	
d) multilateral co-operation	X
98. Is your country giving priority attention to geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
99. Is your country using the ecosystem approach and precautionary and bio-geographical approaches as appropriate in its work on alien invasive species?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
100. Has your country developed effective education, training and public-awareness measures concerning the issue of alien species?	
a) no	
b) some initiatives	X
c) many initiatives	
101. Is your country making available the information which it holds on alien species through the CHM?	
a) no	X
b) some information	
c) all available information	
d) information available through other channels (please specify)	X
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

88. No comprehensive overview of species introduced to Estonia is available, although individual scientists have much information about certain groups of alien species. For example, Prof Toomas Kukk (Institute of Zoology and Botany, Tartu) has given an overview of alien species in *Estonian Flora* (book in Estonian *Eesti taimestik*, 1999). No special studies concerning alien plant species have been conducted.

Mr Tõnu Ploompuu (TPU) has examined the alien species in gardens of Tallinn. He has also a draft database of flora of railways and dumping sites (this database includes information on alien species).

According to Estonian Teriological Society and the Ornithological Society a fairly good overview of alien animal and bird species in Estonia exists.

Although Estonia has some information about introduced fish species, a lack of general knowledge of alien aquatic species in Estonia is evident. Some work has been done on a couple of species (for example predatory cladoceran *Cercopagis pengoi* and polychaete

Marenzelleria viridis) by the Estonian Marine Institute.

Dr. Henn Ojaveer (Estonian Marine Institute) *et al.* have prepared a manuscript *The Baltic- a sea of invaders*, which will be submitted for publication to the *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences*. This article provides data on alien species in the Baltic Sea. IMO hold its Baltic regional seminar on alien marine species in Tallinn, in October 2001.

Unfortunately, no information on alien invertebrates in Estonia is available.

89. Risks:

Fauna:
Mr Tiit Maran (foundation Lutreola, Tallinn Zoo) has assessed the risks of the American Mink (*Mustela vison*) (especially threats to the native species - European mink, *Mustela lutreola*). Some information on risks of introduction of the Raccoon Dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*) is also available.
Several species of *Acipenser sp.* have been introduced into the Esonian waters in the Soviet period. The Rainbow Trout (*Salmo gaidneri* Richardson) and *Acipenser sp* are both found here. These species give very seldom offspring in Estonia and ichthyologists are of the opinion that these species do not pose problems for the native fauna/flora.
Studying the alien aquatic species began in the second half of the 1980s, but a lack of financial resources hinders continuing monitoring and research. Species in ballast waters of ships have not been monitored to date, which makes it impossible to control the situation.
The researchers of the Estonian Marine Institute conducted a comprehensive study concerning *Cercopagis pengoi* and *Marenzelleria viridis*. The former species originates from the Pronto-Caspian region and was found from the Estonian part of the Baltic Sea first in 1992. The latter originates from North America, and was first found in the Baltic Sea in 1985. Both species have caused a decline in abundance of several native species and change in the marine ecosystem. No specific risk assessment has been conducted concerning these species.

Flora:

According to Prof Toomas Kukk (Institute of Zoology and Botany), only little is known of the potential threats of alien species to native flora. The spread of alien species into native communities in Estonia is insufficiently studied. A few studies in the 1930s on *Impatiens parviflora* and *Elodea canadensis* could be named. *I. parviflora* and *Chamomilla suveolens* were initially grown in the Botanical Gardens of Tartu University and have obviously spread from there.
Heracleum sosnowski is an alien plant species probably causing the most serious problems. This species is very vital and is potentially harmful to humans by causing blisters. Over the last few years many children and farmers have got blisters and some people have been hospitalised. Several abandoned fields cannot be reclaimed due to *H. sosnowski* spreading. It is extremely difficult to get rid of the weed.
According to T. Kukk, the most threatening alien plant species are *H. sosnowski, Galega orientalis, Petasites hybridus, Rosa rugosa, Elodea canadensis, Lactuca serriola, Lupinus polyphyllus, Saponaria officinalis* and *Sambucus racemosa.*
A special publication on alien species was published by MoE in 2001.

90. No special act on alien species is in force in Estonia but several legal acts contain provisions on introductions. The *Protected Natural Objects Act* and the *Act on Protection and Management of Fauna* prohibit the release of any alien species to the Estonian nature. Re-introduction of species can be undertaken on scientific reasons and only after the corresponding permit from the Minister of the Environment has been granted. The same requirement is established by the *Fisheries Act* in relation to alien species of fish or other aquatic organisms and their fertilized roe.
According to the *Plant Protection Act* it is prohibited to import to Estonia new pathogens except for certain restricted scientific purposes.
Transfer of *Astacus astacus* specimen from one water body to another, or release of undersized individuals into natural waterbodies is generally prohibited. The CED can authorise such release.

Measures underway: Estonia as a member of IMO will join the new Ballast Water Convention. See Q91. A new *Nature Protection Act* is drafted and it contains strict measures to be applied while handling alien species. The law is scheduled to be adopted in 2002.

91. Projects underway:

The Baltic Sub-Regional Workshop on Ballast Water Management took place in 22-24. October 2001 in Estonia, organized by IMO and financed by GEF-UNDP. In this workshop, the potential cooperation projects were discussed in the framework of the Global Ballast Water Management Programme.
Estonia has received EU Life funding for a project "Recovery of the *Mustela lutreola* in Estonia: captive and island populations" for years 2001 to 2004. In the preparatory stage, all the specimen of the alien species – the American Mink, *Mustela vison* were captured from Hiiumaa Island in order to make the reintroduction of the native species - European Mink - possible.
Project on compiling the so-called *Black Book and Black Lists* (of alien species), will be submitted to the Estonian Environmental Investment Centre for financing in 2001. However, funding is not yet secured.
MoE is planning to start a project on fighting *Heracleum sosnowski*. No funding is yet available. First stage of this project in 2001 includes publishing a booklet about the ecology of the species. Funding for this activity has been made available from the state budget.

92. Alien species are not addressed in Estonian NBSAP as a separate topic, but included embedded in three sectoral action plans: Fisheries, Border Control and Nature Conservation.

Fisheries: Necessary activities foreseen in the Action Plan for years 2000-2005:

1. Sanctions and penalty fines for introduction of alien species and forms,
2. Modernization of fish farming to avoid the escape of reared specimens,
3. A publication about alien species in Estonian waters, distribution of alien species in Estonian water bodies and their impact on local ecosystems;

Nature Conservation: Necessary activities foreseen in Action Plan for years 2000-2005: Analysis of the ecological and economic influences of non-native species along with assessment of future distribution and possible control measures.
Border Control
Implementation of CITES is to some extent also connected to the issue of alien species. However, the border control over species other than CITES species is very weak. It may cause a possible problem in the future (*e.g. Pacifastacus leniusculus*, see below).
Since, the Government has not yet approved the NBSAP, no money for implementation of these activities is foreseen.

93 See Q90-91.

94. A thematic assessment report was submitted to the Secretariat in October 2000.

96. Compared to small island countries, no catastrophes connected to the introduction of alien species (if not taking into account the extinction of the European Mink as such) have occurred in Estonia. The issue of alien is therefore not considered to be of high priority in Estonia. Partially due to international pressure and interest, more attention has recently been attributed to the issue in Estonia.

97. The Estonian delegation participated in Denmark in the workshop *Management of Invasive Alien Species* in May 2001. Exchange of best practice measures in regard of *Heracleum sosnowski* occurred.
One employee from MoE participates in the *Great Lakes Baltic Fellows Programme* FY2001. The objectives of the fellowship programme are to facilitate information exchange in both policy and scientific arenas.

98. It is not applicable in Estonia, since there are no geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems. The only example could be removing the American Mink from Hiiumaa Island in West Estonia in order to reintroduce the native species - European mink.

99. In principle – yes, but very limited activity in the field.

100. No effective education, training and public awareness activities on alien species have been embarked on. A brochure about alien species was published by MoE and distributed to all secondary schools. A special brochure on the *Heracleum sosnowsky* and how to limit its further distribution was also published in 2001. A debate on alien species in specialised e-mail discussion groups and many articles in newspapers have been published.

101. CHM has not yet been established in Estonia. It will be formed in the framework of the UNEP project "Assessment of Capacity-building needs for Biodiversity and Participation in Clearing-House Mechanism in Estonia".

Information (thematic report on alien species and case-studies) is available in CBD homepage www.biodiv.org.

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	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
103. Traditional knowledge is reflected in the protection and restoration of traditional landscapes and habitats. The *Agri-Environmental Programme* managed by the MoA provided support to three pilot areas in Estonia in 2001. Restoration of stone hedges, ponds, reclaiming of abandoned fields *etc* have been the main agri-environmental measures to revitalise traditional rural knowledge. MoE has provided direct support to farmers for mowing, grazing and cutting shrubbery to restore and manage semi-natural habitats, *e.g.* alluvial, coastal and wooded meadows, and alvars. 104. The total budget of the Land Management Support Scheme in 2001 was 1.2 MEUR.

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	
c) potential measures under review	X
d) comprehensive measures in place	
106. Is your country working to encourage the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	

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

107. Has your country developed national legislation and corresponding strategies for the implementation of Article 8(j)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) legislation or other measures in place	
108. Has your country supplied information on the implementation of Article 8(j) to other Contracting Parties through media such as the national report?	
a) no	X
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes - CHM	
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	

109. Has your country submitted case-studies to the Executive Secretary on measures taken to develop and implement the Convention's provisions relating to indigenous and local communities?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
110. Is your country participating in appropriate working groups and meetings?	
a) none	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	X
b) under review	
c) yes (please provide details)	
113. Is your country integrating such tasks into its ongoing programmes, taking into account the identified collaboration opportunities?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
114. Is your country taking full account of existing instruments, guidelines, codes and other relevant activities in the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
c) yes – to a limited extent	X
d) yes – to a significant extent	
115. Has your country provided appropriate financial support for the implementation of the programme of work?	
a) no	
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	X
c) yes – to a limited extent	
d) yes – to a significant extent	
116. Has your country fully incorporated women and women's organizations in the activities undertaken to implement the programme of work contained in the annex to the decision and other relevant activities under the Convention?	
a) no	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	X
b) not appropriate to national circumstances	
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	X
b) not relevant	
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	X
b) not relevant	
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	
b) not appropriate	X
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

105. Since there are no indigenous people living in Estonia, the only measures applied for revitalising traditional land management practices are the management of semi-natural habitats. The Estonian Society for Protection of Traditional Biotopes together with Finnish colleagues have mapped and inventoried the traditional biotopes of Estonia in the framework of the project *Traditional rural landscape and biotopes in the Nordic and Baltic countries* (2000-2001).

106. Management of traditional landscapes and biotopes is implemented by the PAAs and environmental NGOs, such as the Estonian Society for Protection of Traditional Biotopes (http://www.zbi.ee/pky/)

121. Collections concerning folklore and antiquities are abundant in Estonia (kept at the Estonian National Museum and the Estonian Literary Museum), although the aspect of biodiversity has not been examined sufficiently. Estonian ethnologists have considered it their duty to preserve the materials collected from the Finno-Ugric groups residing in the Russian Federation.

Article 9* Ex-situ *conservation

125. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

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

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

125. No legal acts or state programmes have been adopted to regulate the collection, storage and management of biological specimen, expect for the Tallinn Zoo (2000) and Tallinn Botanical Gardens. A survey of the current status and needs for *ex-situ* conservation was completed in 2001.

126. Biological collections (museological collections, herbariums, lab collections and databanks) are generally in poor conditions and out-dated due to under-financing.

127. Has your country adopted measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity *native* to your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	X
128. Has your country adopted measures for the *ex-situ* conservation of components of biological diversity *originating outside* your country (9a)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
129. If the answer to the previous question was yes, is this being done in active collaboration with organizations in the other countries (9a)?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
130. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the *ex-situ* conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources *native* to your country (9b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
131. Has your country established and maintained facilities for the *ex-situ* conservation of and research on plants, animals and micro-organisms that represent genetic resources *originating elsewhere* (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	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
134. Has your country taken measures to regulate and manage the collection of biological resources from natural habitats for *ex-situ* conservation purposes so as not to threaten ecosystems and *in-situ* populations of species (9d)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party - 135. Has your country cooperated in providing financial and other support for *ex-situ* conservation and in the establishment and maintenance of *ex-situ* conservation facilities in developing countries (9e)? ***If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition -*** 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

127. The protection of genetic diversity of Estonian cultivated plants and domestic animals is combined with both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation. The majority of the collections are preserved in scientific institutions, botanical gardens, museums or the Tallinn Zoo.
The collections of micro-organisms, cell and tissue cultures are established mostly within various research projects and scattered in different institutions.

The Institute of Zoology and Botany holds four major biological collections: entomological collections, fungal herbarium, collection of fungal cultures, herbarium of vascular plants and mosses (http://www.zbi.ee/coll.html).

The collections are replenished according to research programmes and projects run by the scientific institutions and universities, the collections are state owned and managed.
Private field and herbaria collections help to maintain cultural plant and tree species and varieties. Part of the genetic material of agricultural crops is preserved as seeds in double copies in the Nordic Gene Bank; part of the material (potato, garden cultures) in the field collections of Latvia and Lithuania (Questionnaire on *ex-situ* collections, compiled by K. Kotkas, K. Truve and L. Eek-Piirsoo, MoE).
The farm animal breeds are conserved both as live populations, semen and in embryo banks. The farm animal semen and embryo banks are formed in accordance with the conservation programmes implemented by the breeding organizations.
The Committee on Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture was founded in Estonia in 1997. The Committee has a mandate to consolidate all institutions dealing with the conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture into the Estonian

National Network and to develop national strategies on conservation of plant genetic resources. Plant genetic resources collections in other gene banks were investigated for identification and repatriation of plant genetic resources of Estonian origin. Appropriate procedures for collection, identification, evaluation, characterisation, documentation and preservation of accessions in accordance with the internationally recognised standards were elaborated in seed banks. The main priority of the Seed Gene Banks is to ensure the long-term preservation of advanced cultivars and breeding lines of Estonian origin (http://www.jpbi.ee).
The Registry on Protected Plant Varieties has been established, as well as the list of Endangered Plant Varieties and Animal Breeds acknowledged.
No single source for information on genetic collections exists; the information is scattered in many different institutions.

Information about private collections needs to be replenished.

128. Similar measures to the preservation of national components of biodiversity are applied.

129. Estonia is actively participating in international cooperation with the Nordic Gene Bank, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Nordic Farm Animal Gene Bank *etc*. Estonia is full member of the *European Cooperative Programme on Plant Genetic Resources* (ECP/GR) coordinated by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

130. Although no law to specify and regulate the establishment and management of bio-collections has been passed, several national collections are maintained. See Q127.

131. Similar measures are applied to all collections independent from the country of origin.

132. See Q129.

133. The reintroduction programmes of the European Mink and Natterjack Toad have been launched. Reintroduction programme of salmon is launched.

134. No law currently regulates establishment or management of biological collections. The removal of specimens of native species form their natural environments is regulated by the *Protection and Use of Fauna Act*.

136. The Jõgeva PBI in cooperation with the Nordic Gene Bank launched targeted activities for preservation of plant genetic resources in 1994. Necessary equipment for *ex-situ* conservation was contributed to the Jõgeva PBI within the framework of a Nordic-Baltic project. The Gene Bank of the Jõgeva PBI was set up in 1999. The Gene Bank currently preserves 566 advanced cultivars and breeding lines of 33 plant species. 95 varieties are of Estonian origin (http://www.jpbi.ee).

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

137.-138. Relative priority afforded to sustainable use of components of biological diversity is evaluated to be on medium level and the available resources have to date been limited in Estonia. In current legislature and political vocabulary the sustainable approach is persistently gaining ground. The *Sustainable Development Act* (1995) defines *inter alia* the "critical reserve of renewable natural resources" as the smallest quantity, which guarantees the natural balance and renewal of biological and landscape diversity. The critical reserve, including the margin value of indeterminacy, shall be determined by the Government. In planning economic activity, this usable reserve should not be exceeded. Unfortunately, the critical reserve has not been determined for any renewable natural resources yet.

The objective of the *National Environmental Strategy* (1997), the principal environmental policy document in the country, was to bring to public attention the environmental problems, priority goals and tasks in promoting sustainable development. One of its primary goals is to promote sustainable use of natural resources that are historically part of Estonia. The NEAP does not include any activities to determine the critical reserve to any biological resources.

The *Estonian Forest Policy* (1997), a strategic planning document for the most important biological resource of the country, while considering the aspect of sustainable use of natural resources, estimates that the total harvest rate of forests in Estonia is unnecessarily low. The total volume of annual felling in all Estonian forests was approximately 2.8 to 4.1 million cubic metres in the past ten years. According to the analysis of the Estonian Forest Survey Centre (1996) the annual maximum volume of wood harvesting without exceeding the sustainable level is 7.8 million cubic metres in Estonia. Today this harvesting level is reached, which has resulted in debate on sustainable felling volume. Forests produce other consumables beside timber, such as berries, mushrooms, herbs, honey, and flowers. Berries (especially blueberry, lingonberry, cranberry) and mushrooms are significant side products for household consumption, domestic processing and export, but no limits to harvesting have been set.

The only sectors with consumption codes and set limits to the use of biological resources, considered as critical reserve analogues, are hunting and fishery.

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	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programme or policy in place	
e) review of implementation available	

140. Has your country adopted measures relating to the use of biological resources that avoid or minimize adverse impacts on biological diversity (10b)?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

144. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on tourism and its impacts on biological diversity, and efforts to effectively plan and manage tourism?	
a) no	
b) yes – previous national report	X
c) yes – case-studies	
d) yes – other means (please give details below)	
145. Has your country submitted to the Secretariat information on biodiversity-related activities of the CSD (such as SIDS, oceans, seas and freshwater resources, consumption and production patterns)?	
a) no	
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	X
b) not relevant	
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	
b) yes	X

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

139. The *EIA and Environmental Auditing Act* (2000) prescribe that national development plans and programmes are subject to SEA (§22). The Act explicitly requires public involvement in EIA and SEA processes. Estonia has ratified (2001) the Arhus Convention, which also sets distinct procedures, rights and liabilities for access to environmental information and decision-making.

140. Permits such as for building, management of waste, emissions to the air, water and soil, deliberate release of GMOs into the environment are being authorised by environmental authorities. These permits are subject to mandatory preliminary environmental assessment. Once the likelihood of significant environmental impact is expected, full EIA has to be conducted.

141. The permitting system of the use of natural resources (forest, fish, game, mushrooms, plants) regulates the customary use of biodiversity.

142. In the framework of the EU Sapard programme, a special measure to revitalise abandoned areas (*e.g.* by aforestation) and restore the habitats has been introduced.

143. The most efficient cooperation between state authorities and private sector probably takes place in the forestry sector. It was noted in the development of the *Forestry Development Plan* and *Estonian Standard of Sustainable Forestry*.

144. Information was provided in the *First National Report to CBD* and a comprehensive assessment was done and published in the NBSAP.

145. Some information was provided in the *First National Report to CBD*.

146. Indicators have been developed in the frame of compilation of Environmental Reports of the Baltic States supervised by BEF. Incentive measures have been set in sectors like forestry, hunting, fishing, and extraction of minerals.

148. Management of semi-natural habitats (*e.g.* wooded meadows, coastal and alluvial meadows) is implemented via contractual basis with landowners (farmers). Matsalu NR has the longest experience in involving local people in the management of valuable habitats in mutually beneficial way. The financial support is provided in the state budget. The total budget for land management support in 2001 was 1.2 MEUR.

149. Areas, like protected areas, including Ramsar sites, where conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are the primary goals, have been identified.

150. The draft *Tourism Development Plan* comprises a chapter on sustainable tourism, including eco-tourism. A NGO – *Estonian Ecotourism Association* – is very active in promoting sustainable tourism in Estonia.

152. Estonian Tourism Agency (ETA) has developed an activity plan for eco-tourism campaigning in 2002, in the year of Global Eco-tourism.

155. Estonian Tourism Agency has formed a Working Group on Sustainable Tourism in August 2001 to assist the ETA to implement the nature tourism activities designed in the *Estonian Tourism Development Plan*.
A sustainable tourism action plan was completed in NBSAP in 1999; revised and up-dated in spring 2001. ETA has proposed to use the AP as a basis for future work.
The Estonian Eco-Tourism Association bringing together small and medium-sized businesses working in eco-tourism sector. The Association was established in 1996 and it manages the eco-label "Estonia in a Natural Way" scheme(www.ecotourism.ee/estekas).

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	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

156. Incentives for sustainable use of natural resources/ biodiversity are set only as general objectives. The *Sustainable Development Act* (1995) sets the overall objective - sustainable utilization of natural resources. *Estonian Environmental Strategy and Action Plan 1998-2000* (1997,1998) and the revised AP 2001-2003 (2001) prioritise the protection of landscape and biodiversity as one of the main environmental objectives. Utilization of natural resources is regulated via a permitting system. Quota for commercial fishing in the Baltic Sea, Lake Peipsi and Lake Võrtsjärv, hunting of game mammals and fowl are fixed annually by MoE. Forest felling and replanting are regulated according to the Forest Management Plan. The annual felling rates are considered too high by the Estonian NGOs and are objects of continuous disputes.

157. The system of incentive measures needs to be elaborated further and transferred into all sectors using or affecting biodiversity. In 2001, the Estonian Government launched a programme to provide direct support for the management of semi-natural habitats, primarily for mowing and grazing. In 2000, 1.2 MEUR from the state budget were allocated via MoE to restore (3900 ha) or manage (28,500 ha) ecologically and culturally valuable habitats. For example, the price level in 2001 for management of wooded meadows was 128 EUR/ha, coastal meadows 64 EUR/ha, alvars 27 EUR/ha, alluvial meadows, paludifying grasslands 41 EUR/ha, wooded pastures 48 EUR/ha, grasslands on mineral soil 22 EUR/ha, building of stone walls 0.6 EUR/m. This management support scheme is expected to continue in 2002.

The agri-environmental programme under EU Sapard programme is implemented in Estonia via pilot projects in three municipalities. Contracts between the state and landowners having woodland key biotopes are providing incentives for habitat protection.

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	
b) some sectors	X
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

Decision III/18. Incentive measures

160. Has your country reviewed legislation and economic policies to identify and promote incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of components of biological diversity?

a) no	
b) reviews in progress	
c) some reviews complete	X
d) as far as practically possible	
161. Has your country ensured the development of mechanisms or approaches to ensure adequate incorporation of both market and non-market values of biological diversity into plans, policies and programmes and other relevant areas, *inter alia*, 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	
b) planned	
c) some	X
d) many	
163. Has your country incorporated biological diversity considerations into impact assessments as a step in the design and implementation of incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
164. Has your country shared experience on incentive measures with other Contracting Parties, including making relevant case-studies available to the Secretariat?	
a) no	
b) yes - previous national report	
c) yes – case-studies	X
d) yes - other means (please give details below)	X

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

165. Is your country actively designing and implementing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) measures in place	
e) review of implementation available	
166. Has your country identified threats to biological diversity and underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including the relevant actors, as a stage in designing incentive measures?	
a) no	
b) partially reviewed	X

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

Decision V/15. Incentive measures

171. Has your country reviewed the incentive measures promoted through the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

172. Has your country explored possible ways and means by which these incentive measures can support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in your country?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) early stages of development	X
d) advanced stages of development	
e) further information available	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

158. See Q157. Landowners whose land is situated in protected areas get tax exemptions: land within strict nature reserve is not taxed, tax levitations are granted on land within special management zone.

159. Some sectors are covered, agriculture in particular. See Q157.

160. Such a review was conducted during the drafting process of the *Estonian Forest Development Plan*, while reviewing the NBSAP in 2001. The incentive measures for biodiversity conservation were assessed.

161. No such official system exists, but as referred earlier (Q157), some mechanisms have been introduced in agricultural sector (*e.g.* land management support scheme). The compensation measures for the damage caused by protected species (*e.g.* the Barnacle Goose, Common Crane) is legally regulated and implemented.

162. Training opportunities are generally provided in limited extent. In relation to special projects (*e.g.* pilot projects under Agri-Environmental Programme) some training takes place.

163. Biodiversity issues are not directly reflected in the EIA procedure, but can be considered as one of the aspects describing the location of the proposed development. The *Protected Natural Objects Act* specifies the need for environmental assessment if the proposed activity outside the borders of a protected object could impose an adverse effect.

164. Experience of implementation of the land management support scheme is shared among the Baltic colleagues at seminars organised by the BEF (*e.g.* Oct. 2001). Case studies have not been provided to the Secretariat, since these activities have only been implemented for a few years.

165. Supporting the management of semi-natural habitats from the state budget has been given high priority in recent years. The relevant measures would continue in 2002.

166. Reviews and assessments have been conducted, usually in conjunction with development of sectoral plans, in particular NBSAP (1999).

167. The semi-natural habitats management support scheme takes into account the economic, social, ecological and ethical aspects.

168. See answers above.

169. Consultations usually take place on development of policy documents in the frame of public meetings, workshops and expert panels.

170. Measures have been proposed in NBSAP (1999), draft *Estonian Forest Development Plan etc*.

171. A preliminary review has been completed (Punning, 1999).

172. Possibilities have been explored in the *National Report to the Framework Convention on Climate Change* in 1999.

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
173.-174. Modern research and development, continuous training are very important tools for conservation and sustainable use enforcement of biodiversity components. A need for advancing natural sciences is understood in Estonia. The Academy of Sciences and individual research institutes of universities have developed special programmes, but the main problem - how to ensure sufficient funding - persists.

175. Has your country established programmes for scientific and technical education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) programmes in place	

176. Has your country provided support to other Parties for education and training in measures for the identification, conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and its components (12a)?	
a) no	X
b) yes	

177. Does your country promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (12b)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

178. Does your country promote and cooperate in the use of scientific advances in biological diversity research in developing methods for conservation and sustainable use of biological resources (12c)?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
If a developed country Party -	
179. Does your country's implementation of the above activities take into account the special needs of developing countries?	
a) no	
b) yes, where relevant	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

175. Estonia has a long tradition in investigating biological diversity at different

levels of organisation of life. Administrative structures exist to advance research and educational activities on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

176. No state level effort has yet been made, but Estonia has participated in several joint education programmes on biodiversity and sustainable use. A project on the Baltic Sea Agenda 21, joining universities around the Baltic Sea, provided video training and guidelines for nine countries for protection and research of the common sea.

177. Several faculties of the higher education establishments (universities, agriculture and technical universities, teacher training establishments) are working on issues of biological diversity.
Estonian Agricultural University is one of the main centres in the field of applied environmental sciences and providing education on biological diversity. Specifically, Biodiversity in ecosystems, Environmental protection and nature conservation, The biota of Estonian biotopes, Water management, Landscape protection and preservation and Forest management are the specialities are subjects closely connected with biodiversity issues.
Tartu University provides academic education on several environment-related professions, *e.g.* Environmental science at TU Türi College. All current curricula of the Department of Biology and Geography are related to biological diversity. About 50 to 60 percent of the BSc, MSc and PhD theses defended, are fully devoted to the environmental issues and thus have biodiversity relevance. All the third-year students are taught a course on Ecology. Science Didactics Department has developed projects *Estonian Plants* and *Estonian Vertebrates* the produced materials are available on Internet (http://sunsite.ee/taimed/, http://sunsite.ee/Animals).
Tallinn Pedagogical University provides biodiversity-related professional training in marine biology and nature preservation, hydrometeorology and nature preservation, environmental sciences, natural sciences, geo-ecology and ecology. Environmental study is a cross-curricular subject for all first year students at the university.
The *Baltic University Programme* (which has its centre in Uppsala) includes several optional courses such as The Baltic Sea Environment, Sustainable Baltic Region, Sustainable Water Management and Peoples of the Baltic. Students of both TPU as well as TTU attend. In recent years, the number of specialities related to environmental matters has increased considerably at TTU, for instance courses in environmental protection are taught to all students. The Centre of Continuing Education of TTU offers Internet based courses titled The Modern Environment.

178. See also Q177. Several research and educational institutions are engaged in inventory of the Estonian biota. Qualified research personnel and major biological collections are mainly kept at EAU (Institute of Zoology and Botany) and at TU (Institute of Botany and Ecology) (contact information at the end of the Report).
The university researchers have compiled several monographs and surveys of Estonian flora (Flora of Estonian vascular plants, lichens, bryophytes, algae, mycobiota, lichens) and various systematic groups of vertebrates (birds, mammals, fish) and invertebrates (coleopteran, butterflies, dioptres *etc*).
Institute of Zoology and Botany has four major biological collections: entomological collection, fungal herbarium, collection of fungal cultures, herbarium of vascular plants and mosses. Institute of Botany and Ecology has the collection of Estonian lichens. Taxonomy issues have been neglected in the past, but lately several graduate and postgraduate theses in taxonomy have been initiated and overall taxonomic expertise is growing.

The Environmental Protection Institute of EAU has promoted research that contributes to conservation and sustainable use of several components of biological diversity, notably in the forestry, agriculture and spatial planning sectors. For example, the structure, condition and dynamics of rare, endangered and problematical species, communities, habitats and landscapes in relation to their protection in Estonia; methodological fundamentals for the green network definition in Estonia; building up the Emerald network database (with special attention given to adjustability to Natura 2000 network database demands) for protected areas in Estonia; definition of a common European analytical framework for the development of local agri-environmental programmes for biodiversity and landscape conservation; ecological network in the Baltic States; Governmental Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (1998-1999); Environmental Indicators in the Baltic States (biodiversity and landscape the research and development in the area of forest conservation network and woodland key habitats; monitoring of soil biota communities; monitoring of agricultural landscapes; study of

earthworms' diversity as main food reserve for *Scolopacidae* on floodplain area in Matsalu NR; studies of biodiversity in agricultural landscapes (EU project AEMBAC); restoration of semi-natural habitats; ecological planning (green network).

Institute of Ecology of TPU has promoted research in the field of biological diversity, *e.g.* in landscape pattern dynamics under natural and human influence; research on relationships between bog plant cover and micro relief pattern and bog massif hydromorphology. Coastal landscape is relatively young and rapidly changing landscape typical of Estonia and the Coastal Landscape Monitoring Programme will supply information on the status, diversity and current changes of those landscapes. The theme was included in the State Environmental Monitoring Programme in l996.

See comment to article 8h.

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
180.-181. The priority to raise public education and awareness in Estonia depends on the target group. Education of children and young people is has high to medium priority while adult level has lower status. Resources assigned to fulfilling these goals are inadequate in relation to implementation possibilities and needs.

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

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

185. Are public education and awareness needs covered in the national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	X
186. Has your country allocated appropriate resources for the strategic use of education and communication instruments at each phase of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation?	
a) limited resources	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	
c) advanced stages of development	X
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	X
b) still to be done	
c) under development	
d) yes	
191. Is your country supporting local, national, sub-regional and regional education and awareness programmes?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
If a developing country Party or Party with economy in transition - 192. When requesting assistance through the GEF, has your country proposed projects that promote measures for implementing Article 13 of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision V/17. Education and public awareness

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

182. In Estonia, environmental and biodiversity education has long traditions. Nature protection topics were included in the lessons of mother tongue at the beginning of the last century. The Estonian peasant culture is considered to have professed many sustainable qualities. In the mid-1960s, education in nature protection gained popularity and a fixed place in the school syllabus, countrywide competitions in natural sciences were held, school forest districts and nature study paths were established.

183. In Estonia, the media, radio, TV and Internet have an important role in promoting public awareness. Appearances in TV and radio, the articles in written media disseminate the information about nature conservation and biological diversity.

184. The Ministry of Education has recommended integration of environmental education in school curricula; advanced environmental education training for teachers and advanced training on biodiversity matters.
The concepts of environmental awareness and sustainable development are incorporated into the Estonian National Curriculum for Basic and Secondary Education (adopted in 1996). The emphasis has been on the interrelations between natural, social and cultural environment and sustainable approach to the surrounding environment. The National Curriculum includes the biodiversity issue and understanding of sustainable development. The subject "environment" is one of the so-called "integrated subjects" in the curriculum. Environmental education forms a part of all the subjects on the syllabus (from first year in primary school up to the twelfth). Biodiversity issues are regarded optional not mandatory subjects in secondary schools and taught in connection with natural science, primarily in biology and geography classes.

185. In March 2000, the ministers of education of the Baltic Sea Region met in Sweden at the Haga Castle to discuss the establishment of an education sector network within the framework of the Baltic Agenda 21. The Haga Declaration pronounces that the Ministers agreed to develop and implement Agenda 21 for education sector in the Baltic Sea Region. The three areas covered by the network are - formal education; higher education; informal adult education. Estonia has nominated its representatives to all three working groups. The Agenda 21 on Education was drafted in autumn 2001. All Baltic Agenda 21 countries and the following organisations: Baltic Local Agenda 21 Forum, Coalition Clean Baltic, Union of the Baltic Cities and WWF International Baltic Programme have participated in this work. The report constitutes the background for the integrated and comprehensive Agenda 21 on Education for Sustainable Development in the Baltic Region (Baltic 21E).

186. The Ministry of Education has conducted a survey of existing environmental education and training activities. Different institutes and organisations, Ministry of Education, and MoE have created and published teaching materials for primary and secondary schools on biodiversity. The work has been based on the principles of environmental education stated in the *Estonian National Curriculum* and in the *National Environmental Strategy*.

187. Estonian environmental non-governmental and non-profit organisations deal with environmental protection and biodiversity and have taken the lead in raising general public awareness and spreading information among different groups of the society. A survey conducted by the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) resulted in producing a register of 125 Estonian non-profit organisations, which deal with education and information dissemination on environment or nature conservation. These organisations include school clubs, but mostly are involved in adult training. The NGO members are usually competent experts and responsible for high quality research and application projects, financed from the state budget or external funds.
Several NGOs in Estonia are primarily involved in the protection of biological diversity (such as the Estonian Fund for Nature, the Estonian Ornithological Society, the Estonian Naturalists' Society), or promote sustainable transport, energy, agriculture, *etc*. For example, the Estonian Students Society for Environmental Protection *Sorex* is a NGO founded by the students of the TPU in November 1998. Most of its members are studying environmental sciences, but some are from other departments, such as philology. *Sorex* manages environmental projects where children and students are the target group.

188. Official documents that state the goals for environmental and biodiversity protection and sustainable development are the following:

The Estonian Constitution (1992) - the Estonian natural resources are national riches, which will be used in a sustainable way (economically). Everyone has a duty to preserve the human and natural environment and to compensate for any damage he/she caused to the environment.

The Sustainable Development Act (1995) regulates sustainable use of natural resources.

The National Environmental Strategy (NES). The first goal of the NES is stimulation of environmental awareness and environmentally friendly consumption patterns. The aim is to preserve and stimulate the Estonian tradition of environmental awareness, to promote public participation in environmental decision-making, active environmental protection and supervision; to encourage future generations to adopt environmentally sound consumption habits and to support future development for environmentally sound consumption patterns.

The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) was prepared for elaboration of actions for implementation of the policy goals set in the NES. NEAP was approved by the Parliament in April 1998 (http://www.envir.ee/neap/eng/kavasj.html).

NEAP includes a section on environmental education with four specific goals:
1.To improve environmental education (including new teaching materials, education programmes), environmental research and to stimulate public environmental awareness.
2.To increase availability of environmental information
3.To enhance public participation in environmental management and to strengthen the role of the NGOs
4.To promote sustainable consumption patterns and environmentally friendly life-style.

*The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. T*he main objectives for education have been outlined as follows::
1.Systematic management of nature education and ensuring necessary funding.
2.Integration of the topic of biological diversity into curricula at all levels
3.Promotion of outside education activities system in order to introduce knowledge of the need for biological diversity protection
In recent years much attention has been paid to inform the public about the links between biotechnology and biodiversity.

190. Official language in Estonia is Estonian into which the text of the CBD has been translated. The second largest language is Russian in which the Convention is also available.

191. The governmental financial support is given to the youth programmes, projects, conferences, environmental activities, networking and organisations.
In 1996, an initiative called - the Tiger Leap Foundation - was launched to promote extensive computerisation in education in Estonia. The programme has been successful everywhere in the country. The programme has involved IT procurement for schools, teacher training and development of educational software. The Tiger Leap Foundation has funded the compiling of multimedia packages on biodiversity ("Estonian Plants" and "Estonian Vertebrates") and on landscapes diversity for schools.
Several educational projects including biodiversity issues for schools based on the Internet have been implemented since 1993:

- *The project "Hello, Spring"* is the first educational project in Estonia, which supports studying and teaching natural sciences and focuses on computer based communication.
- *"The Trees in Estonia"* is designed for pupils of basic school.
- *"Tyybel"* a simulation project for secondary schools.
- *"Inheritance"* - the project calls on schoolchildren to examine and investigate the semi-natural communities (wooded meadows, juniper alvars, coastal pastures) in the vicinity of their homes.

193. *Nature Houses* have been the centres of extramural environmental education in Estonia. They have been financed either by the Ministry of Education or by local authorities. Nature Houses are considered a part of hobby-education according to Estonian educational system. The Nature Houses organise different activities - excursions, environmental camps, seminars, actions, competitions, projects *etc*. They also co-ordinate several national and international environmental projects for Estonian schools. The activities for promoting nature education involve pupils (age group 10 to 17) and teachers of sciences. The Nature House in Tallinn has been

organising an all-Estonian competitions on biological research among pupils for almost 40 years. This is one of the longest-working projects on biodiversity education in Estonia, aiming at encouraging students to observe nature and gain research experience. Currently, only the Nature Houses in Tartu and Pärnu exist, but MoE plans to establish a country-wide network of nature houses, one in each of the 15 counties.

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	X	c) Limiting		d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

194. The *Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Auditing Act* was adopted in June 2000 and enforced on 1 January 2001. Nevertheless, a Governmental Decree regulated the EIA procedure legally in 1992 already. The Act follows the EU Directives 85/337/EC and 97/11/EC. It also sets the general principles of SEA and EIA in the transboundary context. The Act introduced new procedures of submission and review of applications and supervision of the process. The current law does not explicitly stipulate the need for conducting EIA on developments in- or outside protected areas, but the *Protected Natural Objects Act* requires assessment of potential impacts of a proposed activity adjacent to a protected area or protected natural object, in general. Use of natural resources and emissions to the environment require permits. EIA forms a part of the permit authorisation procedure.

The *Deliberate Release of GMOs in the Environment Act* (1999) has provisions to eliminate the impact of released GMOs on the environment and it forms a part of the permit granting process.

195. Allocation of resources is complying with the policy. The developer or the permit applicant is subject to cover the costs of impact assessment.

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	
c) yes – significant extent	X
198. Does your country have mechanisms in place to ensure that the environmental consequences of national programmes and policies that are likely to have significant adverse impacts on biological diversity are duly taken into account (14(1b))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	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	
c) some completed, others in progress	X
b) yes	
201. Has your country mechanisms in place to notify other States of cases of imminent or grave danger or damage to biological diversity originating in your country and potentially affecting those States (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	X
e) no need identified	
202. Has your country mechanisms in place to prevent or minimize danger or damage originating in your State to biological diversity in other States or in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (14(1d))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	X
d) fully compliant with current scientific knowledge	
e) no need identified	
203. Has your country national mechanisms in place for emergency response to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) mechanisms in place	
204. Has your country encouraged international cooperation to establish joint contingency plans for emergency responses to activities or events which present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity (14(1e))?	
a) no	X
b) yes	
c) no need identified	X

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

205. Has your country exchanged with other Contracting Parties information and experience relating to environmental impact assessment and resulting mitigating measures and incentive schemes?	
a) no	
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	
b) information provided to the Secretariat	
c) information provided to other Parties	X
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	
c) yes - in all cases	X

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

196. The *EIA and Environmental Auditing Act* was adopted in June 2000 and came into force on 1 January 2001.

197. The law requires public involvement and information dissemination in the EIA process to a significant extent (Art. 15, 16, 17). The Environmental Memorandum and Environmental Statement have to be made public. Developer has to organise public hearings on the results of EIAs. According to the *Public Information Act* (in force since January 2001), environmental information has to be made available to the public. Many of the environmental databases, such as the Estonian Nature Information System EELIS (www.eelis.ee), can freely be accessed via Internet.

198. SEA is covered by the *EIA and Environmental Auditing Act* (Art. 22). It stipulates that all state development plans, programmes and spatial planning are subject to environmental assessment.

199. In relation to the establishment of protected areas (Sookuninga NR, Koiva River NR) on the Estonian-Latvian border, such communication has been held.

200.Estonia has signed bilateral agreements to establish joint commissions in case of transboundary impact with Latvia and Finland. Similar agreement is prepared with the Russian Federation.

201. The Estonian Parliament ratified the Espoo Convention in 2000. The law, as referred earlier, provides mechanisms that follow the Convention.

202. The mechanisms are provided in the law and the Espoo Convention.

205. BEF, established by the environmental ministries of three Baltic States, has organised several seminars and workshops to discuss these issues. SEI-Tallinn has organised a special Baltic EIA Conference in 1999 in Estonia, and every second year an international conference on the Environmental Conventions and the Baltic States where the implementation of the Espoo Convention has been among the conference topics. The fourth conference took place in October 2001.

206. Report on Liability and Redress was completed in 2001 and submitted to the Secretariat.

207. Requirement for environmental assessment (incl. assessment of impact on biodiversity) of sectoral programmes and plans is set in the *EIA and Environmental Auditing Act* (Art. 22).

208. Loss of biodiversity is considered only in general terms, not in financial terms.

209. No formal procedure has been set, but a case-by-case approach is usually applied.

210. This is required by the *EIA and Environmental Auditing Act*. See also Q197.

211. See Q205

212. A pilot EIA, such as in Kurtna Landscape Protection Area in relation to the expansion of oil shale mines, have been conducted.

213. The requirement comes from the *EIA and Environmental Auditing Act*. The most recent case of SEA was related to the development of EFDP.

214. This a required by the law.

215. MoE has made an effort to make this information available in the Internet, but no databases are public yet.

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		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

216. There are big gaps in relevant legislation. Estonia does not have any legislative acts on the creation, preservation and maintenance of collections of genetic resources and on the provision of access to and exchange of genetic resources with third parties, incl. foreign parties.

217. In the list of activities related to genetic resources and biotechnology in National Environmental Action Plan for 2000–2005 only ca 25 percent of activities have finances available or the resources are expected. The rest, 75 percent of the cost of the activities is not secured.

State budget has no budget allocations for the maintenance of genetic resource collections. MoA is currently preparing the *National Programme on Plant Genetic Resources*, intended to be adopted in 2001 or in early 2002.

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	X
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
220. Has your country an open participation planning process, or any other process in place, to ensure that access to resources is subject to prior informed consent (15(5))?	
a) no	X
b) early stages of development	
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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	

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

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

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

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

Decision V/26. Access to genetic resources

229. Has your country designated a national focal point and one or more competent national authorities to be responsible for access and benefit-sharing arrangements or to provide information on such arrangements?	
a) no	
b) yes	
c) yes, and Executive Secretary notified	X
230. Do your country's national biodiversity strategy, and legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing, contribute to conservation and sustainable use objectives?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
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	X
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	X
b) yes (please provide details)	
233. In developing its legislation on access, has your country taken into account and allowed for the development of a multilateral system to facilitate access and benefit-sharing in the context of the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	X
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	X
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, *sui generis* systems and "intermediaries"?	
a) no	X
b) some information provided	
c) substantial information provided	
236. Has your country submitted information on specific issues related to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements to the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
237. Has your country provided capacity-building and technology development and transfer for the maintenance and utilization of *ex-situ* collections?	
a) no	
b) yes to a limited extent	X
c) yes to a significant extent	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

218. Estonia is a member of several international organisations and programmes: FAO, IPGRI (International Plant Genetic Resources Institute), EUFORGEN (European Forest Genetic Resources Programme), UPOV, *etc*. Information about those organisations is incomplete and publicly unavailable.

222. Aspects are regulated in the *Patent Act*, *Livestock Breeding Act*, and *Plant Variety Protection Act*.

223. A special chapter on "Genetic resources and biotechnology" in NBSAP.

226. See Q218.

227. MoA to some extent.

229. Notification was sent in November 2000. The national focal point is Prof. Ain Heinaru, Dean of the Faculty of Biology and Geography, Tartu University and the competent authority is the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Tartu University.

234. Cooperation with the FAO representative of MoA in Rome.

236. The report was sent to the Secretariat in December 2000 ("Role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit sharing arrangements").

237. MoE and MoA supported the drafting of the *National Programme on Plant Genetic Resources*. In the frame of a UNEP follow-up project GF/1200/96/51 *Assessment of Capacity-building needs for Biodiversity and Participation in Clearing-House Mechanism in Estonia* a Genetic Resources Working Group will be established. The task of the WG is to conduct a survey on the status of existing genetic resource collections and to make the information available to the public, assess the technical needs and provide detailed cost estimates and budget proposals.

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
238. Estonia is acknowledging the importance of Article 16, although as a state with economy in transition, it is not ready to widely support technology transfer to developing countries providing genetic resources. The issue was discussed in the NBSAP (1999). 239. Since this issue has not been regarded as of priority, available funding has been limited.

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	X
b) some measures in place	
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
241. Is your country aware of any initiatives under which relevant technology is transferred to your country on concessional or preferential terms (16(2))?	
a) no	X
b) yes (please give brief details below)	
242. Has your country taken measures so that Contracting Parties which provide genetic resources are provided access to and transfer of technology which make use of those resources, on mutually agreed terms (16(3))?	
a) not relevant	
b) relevant, but no measures	X
c) some measures in place	
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	

243. Has your country taken measures so that the private sector facilitates access to joint development and transfer of relevant technology for the benefit of government institutions and the private sector of developing countries (16(4))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
If so, are these measures	
a) Legislation?	X
b) Statutory policy and subsidiary legislation?	
c) Policy and administrative arrangements?	X
244. Does your country have a national system for intellectual property right protection (16(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
245. If yes, does it cover biological resources (for example, plant species) in any way?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	X

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

242.-246. The *Patent Act* and *Copyright Act* regulate the issues. The *Databases Act* is also relevant setting the provisions for establishment, management and publication of data in national registers. *Act on Plant Varieties* and *Act on Domestic Animal Breeding* regulate the protection of plant varieties and animal breeds. As far as the micro organisms are concerned, Estonia is a party to the Budapest Agreement (since 1996). The *Public Information Act* was passed in 2000. It expands the public right to environmental information and decision-making.

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
247. The Clearing House Mechanism has not yet been established, but a special UNEP project has been launched for its establishment. Exchange of information takes usually place via direct contacts between research institutions and in joint projects. 248. The state budget for such activities is limited; mainly international funds have been used.

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party - 250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
249. MoE has an Internet site (www.envir.ee) where current information on the CBD and other international agreements and conventions can be found. Information on nature conservation, Natura 2000 and Life Nature programme is easily accessible as well. Estonian Nature Conservation Register has an independent web-site (www.eelis.ee).	

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		d) Severely limiting	X

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

252. Technical and scientific cooperation takes place via direct contacts and joint projects between research institutions.

253. Although recognising the importance of technical and scientific cooperation, Estonia has not been able to establish any specific measures to support international cooperation in science and technology. Estonia is participating in the European Union 5th Framework Programme, paying the participation fees. As this programme is specifically designed for the Pan-European scientific cooperation (incl. biodiversity issues), thus Estonia has indirectly allocated finances for the technical and scientific cooperation in biodiversity issues.

254. Has your country taken measures to promote international technical and scientific cooperation in the field of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity (18(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) some measures in place	X
c) potential measures under review	
d) comprehensive measures in place	
255. Do the measures taken to promote cooperation with other Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention pay special attention to the development and strengthening of national capabilities by means of human resources development and institution building (18(2))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	
256. Has your country encouraged and developed methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, including indigenous and traditional technologies, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	X
c) advanced stages of development	
d) methods in place	
257. Does such cooperation include the training of personnel and exchange of experts (18(4))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

258. Has your country promoted the establishment of joint research programmes and joint ventures for the development of technologies relevant to the objectives of the Convention (18(5))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) yes – significant extent	

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

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

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

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

Further comments on implementation of these Articles

254.-258. The Estonian Technology Agency (ESTAG) has embarked on coordination of the international R&D cooperation programme EUREKA as well as the Innovation Relay Centres R&D support network from the Estonian side. Estonia has also become a member of the EUREKA network. Although financing of applied research and risk-intensive industrial R&D projects in all fields of science and technology is pending, these schemes are only in early stages of development, but can significantly promote joint research programmes and joint ventures in biodiversity related technologies in the future.

259.-267. In order to develop Estonian national CHM, Estonia has been negotiating possible further cooperation in this field with Denmark. Estonian has submitted an application to UNEP in order to receive financial support for the national CHM. A multi-sectoral Steering Committee will be established in the project frame in 2002.

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	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
268.-269. The issue is not regarded as a priority. See comment to Article 16.

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	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 measures	
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	X
b) some measures in place	
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	
b) signed, ratification in progress	X
c) instrument of ratification deposited	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

272. Estonia has made several legislative efforts in order to implement Article 19(3). The *Deliberate Release into the Environment of GMOs Act* was adopted on 13 January 1999. The required Gene Technology Committee was established by a Government Decree. The Committee assists the responsible ministries to authorize and monitor the safe transfer, handling and use of GMOs. Estonia has signed the Cartagena Protocol and will be ratified in the Estonian Parliament.

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

273. The budget of MoE to coordinate the CBD implementation in 2000 was 1500 USD, which was increased to 10000 USD in 2001. Part of the topic report was compiled for this sum and a few brochures were prepared and published. The CBD annual membership fee 1000 USD is paid from the state budget via MoE. No special budget allocation for the CBD implementation is made. The deficiency is covered with international grants, such as from UNEP/GEF, which supports the project on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Another proposal has been submitted to UNEP/GEF on assessment of capacity building needs for biodiversity conservation.

274. NBSAP (1999) has not been officially approved. The revised *Biodiversity Action Plan* (2001) has not been approved either, but is expected to be adopted in 2002.

275. Has your country provided financial support and incentives in respect of those national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of the Convention (20(1))?

a) no	
b) yes – incentives only	
c) yes – financial support only	X
d) yes – financial support and incentives	

If a developed country Party -

276. Has your country provided new and additional financial resources to enable developing country Parties to meet the agreed incremental costs to them of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention, as agreed between you and the interim financial mechanism (20(2))?

a) no	
b) yes	

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

277. Has your country received new and additional financial resources to enable you to meet the agreed full incremental costs of implementing measures which fulfil the obligations of the Convention (20(2))?

a) no	
b) yes	X

If a developed country Party -

278. Has your country provided financial resources related to implementation of the Convention through bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?

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

279. Has your country used financial resources related to implementation of the Convention from bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels (20(3))?

a) no	
b) yes	X

Decision III/6. Additional financial resources

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

Decision V/11. Additional financial resources

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

288. Has your country considered tax exemptions in national taxation systems for biodiversity-related donations?	
a) no	X
b) not appropriate to national conditions	
c) exemptions under development	
d) exemptions in place	

Further comments on implementation of this Article

275. There is no national CBD programme neither has the NBSAP, completed in 1999, officially approved. The Estonian Centre for Environmental Investments has a special programme on nature conservation to support activities aiming at protection of species and habitats. Applicants can be either public or private bodies.

277. UNEP/GEF provided support to prepare NBSAP in 1998-1999.

279. DANCEE, WWF-Sweden have provided support via bilateral agreements. DANCEE has supported the preparation of management plans of Soomaa National Park and Alam-Pedja Nature Reserve. DANCEE has also provided assistance to establish EFCAN.

280. This has been one of the objectives of such agreements.

281. Such information is disseminated informally or through specific projects.

282. Estonian Centre for Environmental Investments has its own procedure of monitoring and evaluation. MoE is in process of establishing such mechanisms for financial support monitoring. Ministry of Foreign Affairs is keeping a database on external aid projects, including those on biodiversity.

283. The Estonian Centre for Environmental Investments information is public. MoE has an advanced internet homepage where project information (incl. financial issues) is presented (www.kik.ee).

284. MoE exchanges information with UNEP and UNDP.

286. MoE has good contacts with UNEP RoE and the Biodiversity Facility, as well as with the secretariats of all conventions Estonia is a party to. Several biodiversity projects have been developed in partnership.

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	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources
289. NBSAP has not been officially approved. 290. Concluding from the answer to Q289, the resources are minimal.

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	
b) yes	X

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

291. The revised NEAP for 2001-2003 (adopted in 2001) provides the maximum number of nature conservation activities to be financed from the state budget and international funds. The total cost is estimated to be 22 MEUR in a three-year period. The main source of financing is the state budget and the Estonian Centre for Environmental Investments, supplemented by international grants on project basis. The annual budget of the Estonian Centre for Environmental Investments for nature conservation was about 1 Million USD in 2001.

292. Annual assessments and reviews of the implementation of NEAP occur at public hearings. Such evaluations also take periodically place during the preparation process of national reports to the CBD.

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)	3
b) COP 2 (Jakarta)	2
c) COP 3 (Buenos Aires)	3
d) COP 4 (Bratislava)	0
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	
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 1st January 2001?	
a) yes in advance	
b) yes on time	X
c) no but subsequently paid	
d) not yet paid	
298. Has your country made additional voluntary contributions to the trust funds of the Convention?	
a) yes in the 1999-2000 biennium	
b) yes for the 2001-2002 biennium	
c) expect to do so for the 2001-2002 biennium	
d) no	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

295. Estonian delegation participated at the regional (CEE) meeting on the preparation for COP5 held in Riga, Latvia on 20-23 March 2000.

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

299. Estonia has paid annual membership fees in time. There is a corresponding budget allocation in the state budget. The fee was 1000 USD in 2001.

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)	0

Further comments on implementation of this Article

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

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	X

Further comments on implementation of this Article

301. First National Report was published in Tallinn in April 1998, ISBN 9985-9114-2-3

302. A limited number of stakeholders was involved.

303. As the compilation and publishing was financed by UNEP, it was not subject for commercial distribution, but is available on the Internet http://www.biodiv.org/doc/world/ee/ee-nr-01-en.pdf.

304. The following thematic reports have been completed: Forestry in September 2001, Alien Species in October 2000 and Benefit Sharing in December 2000.

Decision V/6. Ecosystem approach

305. Is your country applying the ecosystem approach, taking into account the principles and guidance contained in the annex to decision V/6?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) some aspects are being applied	X
d) substantially implemented	
306. Is your country developing practical expressions of the ecosystem approach for national policies and legislation and for implementation activities, with adaptation to local, national, and regional conditions, in particular in the context of activities developed within the thematic areas of the Convention?	
a) no	X
b) under consideration	
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	
b) case-studies identified	X
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	X
b) informal co-operation	
c) formal co-operation (please give details)	

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

305. Ecosystems approach was introduced in the West-Estonian Archipelago Biosphere Reserve following the principles of the UNESCO-MAB programme. The only Estonian biosphere reserve had three regional centres: Hiiumaa, Saaremaa and Läänemaa.

306. Ecosystems approach is in testing phase and not legally regulated.

307. Hiiumaa Centre of the Biosphere Reserve is pioneering in introducing the ecosystems approach in area management currently working on this basis in establishment a new protected area – Kõpu National Park. Information on workshops and public meetings is available on the Internet www.bka.ee/hiiumaa/park.

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	X
313. Has your country reviewed the programme of work specified in annex 1 to the decision, and identified priorities for national action in implementing the programme?	
a) no	X
b) under review	
c) yes	

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

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

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

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

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

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

310. In the National Report to the CSD, only information on general biodiversity matters was submitted. It included the decision-making (*e.g.* establishment of a special Governmental Commission to deal with issues related to biological diversity); legislation, regulations and policy instruments (*e.g.* approval of the *Sustainable Development Act* in the Parliament in 1995); strategies, policies and plans (*e.g.* approval of the *National Biodiversity Strategy* by the Global Environmental Facility, drafting of two important national policy papers - the *Estonian Environmental Strategy* and the *Estonian Forest Policy*); status; information (*e.g.* the monitoring system); financing and cooperation (signing of the Association Agreement between Estonia and the European Union in 1995, co-operational activities with UNEP and the World Bank).

312. MoE submitted a project proposal to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) through UNDP in 1998 titled *Development and Implementation of the Lake Peipsi/ Chudskoe Basin Management Programme*. The project will implement integrated and river basin management principles. It will assist the Peipsi River Basin authority in preparation of the *Lake Peipsi Basin Management Plan* and will prepare a programme of measures for reduction of the nutrient load in the Basin. The project includes a demonstration part on development of an ecological tourism route in South Estonia that will implement best practices in water protection, biodiversity conservation and local development. Lake Peipsi Basin is accepted as a demonstration area – an area where principles of sustainable development and integrated water management are implemented in practice - in the Baltic Sea Agenda 21 and the GWP. Peipsi CTC and Danish WWF applied to the Baltic 21 Secretariat in spring 2001 to implement a pre-feasibility study "Wetlands in the Lake Peipsi Basin", but have not received any answer to the proposal. Lake Peipsi Basin Management Plan will be presented at a global meeting in Japan organized by the GWP and International Lakes Environmental Committee along with four other lakes from Asia and America to demonstrate implementation of integrated water management principles.

314. In September 2000, a Peipsi CTC representative participated in the GEF biannual transboundary water conference (Budapest, Hungary). A workshop on the River Basin Initiative was organized and approaches to biodiversity issues and river basin management were discussed. Peipsi CTC discussed possible ideas for relevant activities with the Wetland International, MoE EEIC, Danish WWF and Estonian Fund for Nature, however, the discussions did not result in a concrete project proposal.

In March 2001, Peipsi CTC representative participated in the RBI workshop held in the Netherlands, where a possibility for a project implementing river basin management and biodiversity conservation in the Lake Peipsi Basin was discussed. In September 2001 Peipsi CTC and MoE EEIC submitted a project concept to the RBI named "Wetlands, as the Important Regulators of Water Quality and Biodiversity in the Transboundary Lake Peipsi/ Chudskoe Basin". No feedback information on the project concept from the River Basin Initiative has arrived.

315.-317. Chapters on Freshwater Biodiversity and Marine and Coastal Biodiversity are missing in the NBSAP. These issues are partly covered in the Chapter on Fisheries that mostly focuses on commercial aspects. Several activities relevant to the Work Programme have still been launched in marine and coastal areas. For instance, foundation of marine and coastal protected areas, continuous implementation of the monitoring programme and conducting case studies of ICZM. Other important items of the Work Programme have received no attention at all at the governmental level (*e.g.* implementation of integrated marine and coastal area management), others having received support only at the institutional level (*e.g.* alien species). Selected inland water ecosystems are regularly monitored from the biodiversity point of view. Pilot projects on watershed management have been launched and completed. In both cases (freshwater and marine ecosystems), the Work Programme has not been adopted at national level.

319. Estonia is a party to the Ramsar Convention since 1994. A national Ramsar Committee was established and a Work Plan adopted by the Government in 1997. The main goal of the national Ramsar Work Plan is to draft management plans for all ten Ramsar sites in Estonia by 2002.

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

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

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

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

320. NBSAP is mostly concerned with issues concerning exploitation of commercial fish stocks. Current funding for the implementation of the AP is insufficient: only ca 30 percent of the proposed activities has received at least 50 percent of the requested funding.

323. Estonia participated in the HELCOM PITF MLW (Marine Lagoons and Wetlands) programme with two case studies on ICZM. These were the Matsalu Bay and Käina Bay cases. Extensive information exchange via the HELCOM HABITAT workgroup and EUCC (European Union of Coastal Conservation) facilities occurs.

324. No 'true' marine species in Estonia are subjected to stock enhancement procedures. Species living in the Estonian coastal area, freshwater and migratory species such as Pike, Pikeperch, European Whitefish, Salmon and Trout are released to open waters for enhancement of fishery resources. A programme on salmonids is currently being developed.

326.-328. There are no coral reefs in the Baltic Sea.

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	X
c) yes – soil biota	X
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 agro-biodiversity 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 agro-biodiversity 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	
b) some co-operation	X
c) widespread co-operation	
d) full co-operation in all areas	
343. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) limited additional funds	X
c) significant additional funds	
If a developed country Party –	
344. Has your country provided financial support for implementation of the programme of work on agricultural biological diversity, in particular for capacity building and case-studies, in developing countries and countries with economies in transition?	
a) no	
b) yes within existing cooperation programme(s)	
b) yes, including limited additional funds	
c) yes, with significant additional funds	
345. Has your country supported actions to raise public awareness in support of sustainable farming and food production systems that maintain agricultural biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes, to a limited extent	X
c) yes, to a significant extent	
346. Is your country co-ordinating its position in both the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources?	
a) no	
b) taking steps to do so	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	
b) signed – ratification in process	
c) instrument of ratification deposited	X
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	X
b) yes	

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

356. Has your country assessed whether there is a need for effective regulations at the national level with respect to genetic use restriction technologies to ensure the safety of human health, the environment, food security and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) yes – regulation needed	X
c) yes – regulation not needed (please give more details)	
357. Has your country developed and applied such regulations taking into account, *inter alia*, 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

329. MoA developed the *Agri-Environment Programme* in 2000. The Programme was launched in 2001 in 3 municipalities and is designed to expand gradually to include the whole country. In 2002, 40 municipalities will be involved. Another important component of the Programme is financial support to landscape management in order to reduce the share of unused or abandoned agricultural land. Estonia has committed state budget funding to the implementation of the Programme, notably to the national implementation of four selected measures since 2000. These are support for organic farming and breeding of endangered native cattle breeds (both facilitated by MoA). In 2001, management of semi-natural habitats (MoE) and growing traditional crop varieties (MoA) were launched. Implementation of the Programme will lay a basis for an entirely new direction in agricultural policy, which would contribute to a balanced development of rural areas and to preservation of traditional settlement patterns.

330. An Action Plan *Collection and conservation of agricultural cultivars genetic resources* was compiled in 2001. A State Programme *Collection and conservation of agricultural cultivars genetic resources for years 2002-2006* is currently prepared in MoA.

332.-333. Research on pollinators, soil biota and landscape management is conducted in the Environmental Protection Institute and the Faculty of Agronomy of EAU.

334. In pilot areas where the agri-environment support was paid out in 2001, the public awareness in biodiversity was increased considerably since special effort was made in training, field demonstrations and booklets.

335. The Estonian Government approved the *National Agricultural Strategy* in 2000. The strategy states that preparations for the transition to a common European agricultural policy have to be made due to the Estonian accession to the European Union, taking into account the latest developments in this field. The key issue will be the ability of the agricultural sector to adjust to the necessary changes and maintain its long-term competitiveness. Agriculture and rural development is supported by the EU Sapard Programme, which is divided between eight measures. First four measures were introduced in Estonia in 2001. The objective of the plan is to facilitate the transfer of the *acquis communautaire*, *i.e.* the common agricultural policy and rural development policy of the EU into Estonian legal system.

336.-337. The *Agri-Environment Programme* developed since 2000 (including support to organic farming and management and restoration of semi-natural habitats) involves this in a limited extent. The issue will be increased considerably.

338. Development of organic farming has been rapid in Estonia in recent years. In 2000, the area farmed organically increased approximately two and half times to a total of almost 10,000 hectares (1 percent of total agricultural land in production) and in 2001 it amounted to more than 20,000 hectares. Similar change is expected in 2002. Organic farming was systematically approached first in 1989 when the Estonian Biodynamic Association was founded and the first common standards for organic farming were set. Two to three organisations are currently promoting knowledge and experience exchange about organic farming issues and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, *e.g.* different seminars, training courses are held, articles published by the Centre for Ecological Engineering. The amount of research in the field of organic farming has thus far been insignificant but its importance has clearly been acknowledged by institutions dealing with organic farming. Similar trends can be traced in training of advisors. The *Organic Agriculture Act* in 1997 was the first official regulation in organic farming. The inspection system was revised completely in 2001 with adopting the updated *Organic Farming Act* (RT I 2001, 42, 235) and introduction of a wholly state-run organic certification system. State support to organic farming was first launched in 2000. Marketing of organic products has not kept up with those developments, but several new initiatives will be launched. Today consumers have still difficulties to find any organic products on the market.

A *Code of Good Agricultural Practices* was compiled by MoE and MoA and was approved by the Agricultural Producers' Union in 2001.

339. Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute and Estonian Plant Biotechnological Research Centre EVIKA of EAU are actively participating in the *Global Plan of Action* for the *Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources*. Research institutions are financed from the state budget, as well as from the research grants, international projects and services.

340., 342. Estonia is participating in the Interreg project *Traditional rural biotopes in Nordic and Baltic countries* since 1999, sharing experiences on management types of semi-natural habitats in the Nordic-Baltic region.

343. A State Programme *Collection and conservation of agricultural cultivars genetic resources for years 2002-2006* is currently being prepared at MoA. The following institutes are responsible for conducting the Programme: Jõgeva Plant Breeding Institute, Institute of Horticulture, Estonian Plant Biotechnology Research Institute EVIKA and Institute of Experimental Biology of the Estonian Agricultural University, Botanical Gardens and Institute of Pharmacy of Tartu University.

349.-350. Research on pollinators and soil biota is conducted at the Environmental Protection Institute of EAU. A pilot study was conducted in cooperation with the Finnish Environment Institute about the diversity and monitoring methods of pollinator communities in Eastern Fennoscandia and Eastern Baltic (Söderman, *et al*. 1999).

351. Estonia does not profess CHM yet. The CHM will be created in the framework of UNEP project *Assessment of Capacity Building needs for biodiversity and Participation in Clearing House Mechanism in Estonia*. The Estonian NBSAP has been prepared in 1998-1999 with UNEP support.

352. The use of GMOs is regulated by several acts in Estonia:

- Special Requirements for Labelling of Food Produced from Genetically Modified Soya Beans or from Genetically Modified Maize and Presentation of Information in Any Other Manner (Decree N176, RT I 2000, 43, 275);
- The *Introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms into the Environment Act* (RT I 1999, 10, 151);
- The *Seed and Propagation Material Act* (RT I 1998, 52, 771);
- The *Food Act* (RT I 1999, 30, 415);
- The *Environmental Control Act* (RT I 1997, 86, 1460)

356. Estonia considers ratification of the Cartagena Protocol in 2002. The framework legislation on GMOs is generally in place. Amendments in the national legislation will be made after the ratification of the Cartagena Protocol and corresponding EU directive.

Forest biological diversity

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

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

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

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

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

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

359. The Intergovernmental Panel on Forests has decided that Estonia will not participate in the process in form of delegations to the assemblies, however, the country is interested in following the progress of this important endeavour and is willing to inform the Panel on relevant national steps.

361. Estonia has integrated forest biological diversity considerations in its participation and collaboration with several international organisations, *e.g.* in the Reports to FAO. See also Q11-18.

362. The plans for allocation of resources to activities that advance the objectives of the Convention in respect of forest biological diversity can be followed in details in the Estonian Biodiversity Action Plan.

363. Estonia has received two grants from UNEP/GEF, which *inter alia* have promoted the implementation of the programme of work: GF/0313-94-67 *Assistance for the Preparation of Biodiversity Country Study in the Republic of Estonia* and GF/1200/96/51 *National Biodiversity Strategy, Action Plan and First National Report on the Convention on Biological Diversity*. The latter project also received funding for a follow-up titled *Assessment of Capacity-building Needs for Biodiversity and Participation in Clearing-House Mechanism in Estonia*.

364. Sustainable use of forest biological diversity partly conforms to the ecosystem approach.

366. Estonia will contribute to the future work of the UN Forum on Forests in form of active regional contribution to the Pan-European Ministerial Forest Process and in other appropriate ways.

367. Thematic report on Forestry was submitted in September 2001.

368. Estonia has partly integrated national forest programmes with the NBSAP, and indirectly applied the ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management. This was adopted while developing the *Estonian Forest Policy* (1997); and in advanced and more specific manner in the decennial *Estonian Forestry Development Plan* (2002), which has not been adopted yet.

369. Several measures to ensure participation from the forest sector, private sector, indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organisations in the *Estonian Forest Policy* and NBSAP have been applied; additional measures are foreseen in the *Estonian Forestry Development Plan* and via the *Assessment of Capacity-building Needs for Biodiversity and Participation in Clearing-House Mechanism in Estonia*.

370. Measures to strengthen national capacities including local capacities, to enhance the effectiveness and functions of forest protected area networks like the bilateral project in 1996 to 2002 *Estonian Forest Conservation Area Network* have been taken. National and local capacities for implementation of sustainable forest management, including restoration, were increased with the help of another bilateral project in 1999 to 2001 *Restoration of woodlands naturalness in Estonian protected areas*.

371.A few projects, which include indirect evaluation of forest products and services, such as *Valuable landscapes assessment* as part of spatial planning procedure and *Man and forest* evaluating societal perceptions of forest have successfully been conducted.

Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands

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

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

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

This aspect of biodiversity conservation is not relevant in Estonia, since Estonia is located in the boreal region.

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	X
b) yes	
376. Has you country actively participated in sub-regional and regional activities in order to prepare for Convention meetings and enhance implementation of the Convention?	
a) no	
b) to a limited extent	X
c) to a significant extent	
377. Has your country undertaken a review of national programmes and needs related to the implementation of the Convention and, if appropriate, informed the Executive Secretary?	
a) no	
b) under way	
c) yes	X

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

376. The Estonian delegation has participated in the regional CEE meetings on CBD, in Tallinn in 1994, 1998 in Almaty, 2001 in Riga.

MoE in cooperation with the environmental ministries in Latvia and Lithuania and other institutions have organised Baltic regional conferences on the implementation of the environmental conventions since 1993. The fourth conference was held in October 2001 in Estonia. The progress of implementation of the CBD was a topic for one group.

377. Such review was done in conjunction with the drafting of the NBSAP in 1998-1999.

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 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was prepared in 1998-1999. More than one hundred people were involved in the drafting process. NBSAP was published both in Estonian and English. Much attention was drawn to the biodiversity issues at that time. The requirements of CBD were first introduced to a wider audience.

Several *thematic reports* were compiled, giving a comprehensive insight into specific areas of the CBD. The following reports have been completed:

1. Forest Biodiversity (compiled by M. Külvik, 2001)
2. Traditional Knowledge (compiled by K. Kalling, 2001)
3. Benefit Sharing (role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit sharing arrangements) (compiled by K. Truve, 2001)
4. Alien species (compiled by L. Eek-Piirsoo, 2000)
5. Liability and redress (information on Estonian national, international and regional measures and agreements on liability and redress applicable to damage caused to biological diversity) (compiled by K. Kõrm, 2001)
6. Information in regard of existing practices, rules and standards relevant to Article 18 (handling, transport, packaging and identification) of the Cartagena Protocol and information regarding capacity-building needs, priorities and existing initiatives on capacity building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol (complied by L. Eek-Piirsoo, 2001)

Estonian experts have participated at SBSTTA meetings and been involved in preparation of thematic documents. Estonian expertise has also been used elsewhere for reviewing the implementation of the CBD in CEE/NIS countries.

Mr Mart Külvik has conducted a survey on the Status of the Development and Implementation of Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in CEE/NIS Countries in 1996 and 2000. The report is a comprehensive survey of the needs for assistance in the implementation of the CBD in these countries.

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

(Q13-15). Estonia has signed bilateral agreements in the field of environmental protection with Denmark (1991), Poland, Sweden and Finland (1992), Germany (1993), Austria (1994), Byelorussia (1995), the Slovak Republic (1996). Trilateral Agreement between the Environmental Ministers of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia was signed in 1995.

A Latvian-Estonian transboundary protected area called Sookuninga was established in 1999.

An Estonian-Russian Intergovernmental Transboundary Water Commission was established in 1998 in accordance with the Estonian-Russian Bilateral Agreement on Protection and Use of Transboundary Waters. The process of preparation of the Lake Peipsi Watershed Management Plan is proceeding lead by the Transboundary Water Commission. Lake Peipsi is the fourth largest lake in Europe, with a surface area of 3555 sq. km and the largest border lake in Europe.

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

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

Information on NBSAP

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

Date of completion:		***1999***	
If the NBSAP has been adopted by the Government NO			
By which authority?		-	
On what date?		-	
If the NBSAP has been published please give			
Title:		***National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan***	
Name and address of publisher:		***Eesti Loodusfoto***	
ISBN:		***9985-830-35-0***	
Price (if applicable):		***Distributed free of charge***	
Other information on ordering:		***Out of print***	
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:		***http://www.envir.ee***	
If the NBSAP has been lodged with an Implementing Agency of the GEF			
Please indicate which agency:		***UNEP-GEF***	
Has a copy of the NBSAP been lodged with the Convention Secretariat?			
Yes	X	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

Biodiversity Country Study was completed in 1996.

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 national body who is authorised to review the implementation of the CBD is the National Audit Office,

Narva Ave 11a
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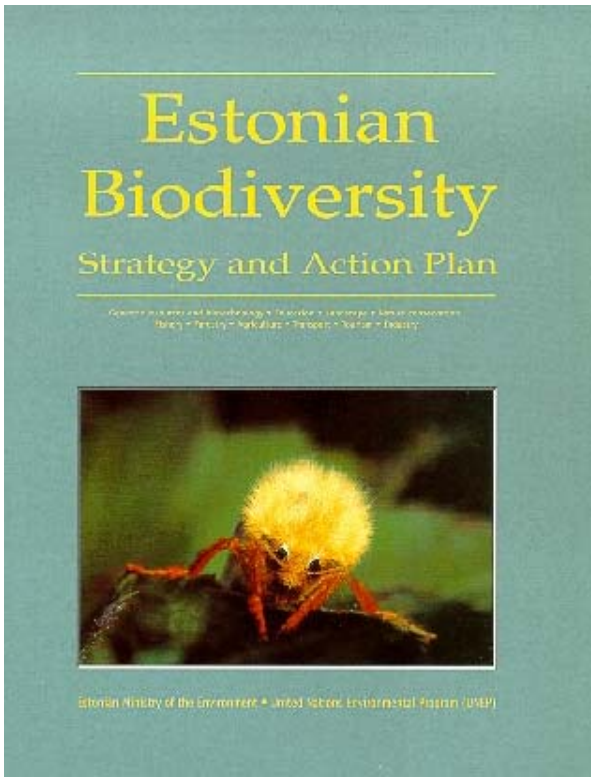

Abbreviations used in this report

AP	–	Action Plan
BEF	–	Baltic Environmental Forum
CBD	–	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBD CS	–	CBD Country Study
CED	–	County Environmental Department
CHM	–	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	–	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
CTC	–	Peipsi Center for Transboundary Cooperation
DANCEE	–	Danish Cooperation for Environment in Eastern Europe
EAU	–	Estonian Agricultural University
ECEI	–	Estonian Centre for Environmental Investments
EEIC	–	Estonian Environment Information Centre
EFDP	–	Estonian Forest Development Plan
EIA	–	Environmental Impact Assessment
FCCC	–	Framework Convention on Climate Change
GEF	–	Global Environmental Facility
GMO	–	Genetically Modified Organism
GWP	–	Global Water Partnership
HELCOM PITF MLW	–	Programme of Marine Lagoons and Wetlands of the Programme Implementation Task Force of the Helsinki Commission
ICZM	–	Integrated Coastal Zone Management
IMO	–	International Maritime Organisation
MoA	–	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	–	Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Estonia
NBSAP	–	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEAP	–	National Environmental Action Plan
NES	–	National Environmental Strategy
NR	–	nature reserve
PAA	–	Protected Area Administration
SBBSTA	–	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
TPU	–	Tallinn Pedagogical University
TTU	–	Tallinn Technical University
TU	–	Tartu University
UNEP	–	United Nations Environment Programme

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