

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	Fl.	c) Low	
19. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	X	c) Limiting	Fl.
d) Severely limiting					
Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources					

20. What is the status of your national biodiversity strategy (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	Br.
c) advanced stages of development	Fl. / Fed.
d) completed ₁	
e) completed and adopted ₂	Wa.
f) reports on implementation available	Fl.
21. What is the status of your national biodiversity action plan (6a)?	
a) none	
b) early stages of development	Br.
c) advanced stages of development	Wa. / Fl.
d) completed ₂	
e) completed and adopted ₂	
f) reports on implementation available	Fl.
22. Do your national strategies and action plans cover all articles of the Convention (6a)?	
a) some articles only	
b) most articles	X
c) all articles	
23. Do your national strategies and action plans cover integration of other sectoral activities (6b)?	
a) no	
b) some sectors	X
c) all major sectors	
d) all sectors	

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

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	Fl.
b) sharing of strategies, plans and/or case-studies	
c) regional meetings	X
25. Do all of your country's strategies and action plans include an international co-operation component?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
26. Are your country's strategies and action plans co-ordinated with those of neighbouring countries?	
a) no	
b) bilateral/multilateral discussions under way	
c) co-ordinated in some areas/themes	X
d) fully co-ordinated	
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	Wa. / Fl.
e) reports on implementation available	Fl.
<i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i>	
28. Has your country received support from the financial mechanism for the preparation of its national strategy and action plan?	
a) no	
b) yes	
If yes, which was the Implementing Agency (UNDP/UNEP/World Bank)?	

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

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

Further comments on implementation of this Article

(20) Both the Flemish and Walloon Region have developed a biodiversity strategy for the CBD-issues belonging to their competences (see below). The Brussels Capital Region did not develop a strategy as such, but strategic priorities are mentioned in various management plans and programmes.

At the federal level, strategic actions on biodiversity related themes are stated in the Federal Plan for Sustainable Development. Strategic elements were also mentioned in the First National Report of Belgium to the CBD, published in 1998.

At the national level, a national biodiversity strategy is being developed, mainly based on all documents referenced above and aiming to integrate biodiversity considerations into programmes and plans for all concerned sectors. The National Strategy will be published in 2002.

(20 & 21) Flanders - The Environmental Policy and Nature Development Plan (MINA-Plan 2: 1997-2001) is currently being implemented. The overall aim is to enhance integration of nature conservation and environmental policy into other sectoral and cross-sectoral policies. MINA-Plan 2 includes an overall action plan for 13 Themes. Loss of biodiversity is one of the main themes. The Plan indicates specific goals, identifies expected outcomes as well as a timetable and the means to achieve them, and establishes an institutional framework for the implementation. A more detailed action plan is published every year to indicate implementation on a yearly basis.

On the level of local authorities a Provincial Environment and Nature Plan by each of the 5 Provinces of Flanders is developed every 5 years.

Under the sectoral jurisdiction, specific policy planning documents are being developed; e.g. nature conservation policy plan and action plan, forestry action plan, integrated water policy plan. All of those are integrated in the overall goals and targets of the environment policy plan but also include the detailed planning of the implementation (= action plan) under each sector. The next Environment-Nature Plan (MINA-Plan 3: 2002-2007) is being developed.

Reporting on the implementation is published in environment and nature reports: MIRA-1 (1994), MIRA-2 (1996), MIRA-T 1998 (report on the implementation of each of the 13 themes of the MINA-Plan), MIRA-T 1999 and MIRA-S 2000 which describes scenario's for future development for 23 themes. An extensive reporting on nature conservation policy and implementation is published in 1999 in the Nature Report 1. The next report, Nature Report 2, is in preparation.

(20 & 21) Wallonia - The Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development in the Walloon Region (PEDD), adopted by the Walloon Government on 9 March 1995, constitutes the Region's contribution for a Biodiversity Strategy (Book 3, chapter 1 - Biodiversity Conservation). The Region's CBD Action Plan, the 'Nature Conservation Plan', based on the concept of ecological network, is being developed.

The Walloon Region has also adopted the following strategic plans and projects that take into account biodiversity issues: the Regional Spatial Development Project (SDER), for which the Walloon Code of Town and Country Planning, Urban Development and Heritage (CWATUP) serves as legal basis, the Walloon Program of Rural Development and finally the Contract for the Future in Walloon Region, which gives orientations for the development of the Region. All these plans are dealing with biodiversity as an important element of Walloon natural heritage.

(29) The Belgian Co-ordinating Committee for International Environmental Policy (CCIEP) assures the co-ordination for all international aspects of environmental policy. The CCIEP is composed by representatives of all the federal and regional competent administrations. Several steering committees are operating under the direct authority of the CCIEP. One of these is the Steering Committee 'Biodiversity Convention'. To achieve an efficient co-ordination at this level, the presidents (or their representatives) of other CCIEP-groups concerned by the implementation of the CBD, such as 'Nature', 'Forests', 'Biosafety', 'Agriculture and Environment' and 'Trade and Environment', are invited to each meeting of this Steering Committee.

The Nature Group of the CCIEP, chaired by the Nature and Forestry Division of the Walloon Region, is in charge of the follow up of CBD-related nature Conventions, such as CITES, Ramsar, Bern, Bonn, etc. Regarding the preparation of CBD meetings such as SBSTTA and COP, the Nature Group is preparing the Belgian positions concerning Article 8 of the Convention. The Nature Group also co-ordinates the follow-up of the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy.