

**Biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands**

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

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

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

(Forest biological diversity) For Forestry in Flanders:  
- Research (genetic and molecular identification) and field inventory projects on real indigenous species of trees and shrubs, with special attention for rare and vulnerable species;  
- Programme towards establishment of, and research in, a network of forest reserves.

(362) Walloon Region - In management plans and in financial incentives for private and public forest owners, but also by integration of biodiversity indicators in the regional continuous forest inventory.

(366) The Walloon Region will contribute to the future work of the UNFF (no human resources for UNFF-1). One person is involved full-time in the preparation of UNFF-2.

(368) Walloon Region - Not by the way of national forest programmes, but via the 'Plan de Développement de la Nature' and management plans.

(372-374) Belgium can not apply this decision at the national level because it has no dry or sub-humid lands. Nevertheless, bilateral co-operation projects with Belgian input on some aspects related to this theme exist (see text box at the end of Art. 5 - Co-operation).

The development of synergies with other conventions, particularly the Convention to Combat Desertification as stipulated in the work programme, is under consideration. Possible financial contributions are currently under review.

