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

The report has been prepared by the responsible government agency (Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape/Swiss Forest Agency). Various experts within the Federal Agency have been consulted. Senior consultants working on this subject over a long period of time have equally been involved in its preparation. Furthermore, various assessments, reports and programmes provided the basis for this report.

VOLUNTARY REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY

Expanded Programme of Work on Forest Biological Diversity

Annex to Decision VI/22

1. Has your country identified priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work for implementation at the national level?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	
b) yes (please provide a list of priorities identified)	
Further comments on identification of priority goals, objectives and activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland has a long tradition of managing and preserving forest biological diversity. For example, close-to-nature forest management is required by law. - With respect to the identification of priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work for implementation at the national level, please note that an assessment process is currently under way. Since the identification of priorities is worked out concurrently and in combination with the assessment of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action results are to be expected not earlier than mid 2004. 	
2. From the list of priorities, did some or all of them produce the expected impacts after their implementation (i.e. a success)?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	N/A
b) yes (please specify success stories)	N/A
Further comments on impacts of implementation of priority activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the last 20 years, Switzerland has achieved a lot in managing and preserving forest biological diversity (e.g. close-to-nature forest management, leaving snags or coarse woody debris etc). - With respect to priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work on biological diversity see response for question 1. 	
3. Were there any challenges/impediments to the implementation of priority activities that could have negatively affected their chance of success?	
a) yes (please specify the activities and the main challenges/impediments)	N/A
b) no	N/A

Further comments on challenges/impediments to implementation of priority activities	
<p>- With respect to priority goals, objectives and activities included in the expanded programme of work see response for question 1.</p> <p>It is important to note that the overlap/duplication among the various international environment-related processes (e.g. climate, biodiversity, forest, desertification etc) presents in itself challenges and impediments in the identification of priorities, the implementation and the reporting. Treating the same issues in different processes in slightly different ways requires an increasing amount of coordination time at the implementation level, as different people and/or institutions require different reports at different times. Short, for small countries like Switzerland this makes it increasingly difficult to comply with all the different international obligations. Not only because of the stagnation, or diminution respectively, of the available administrative resources, but also because of the increasing difficulty to involve public and private actors in the many existing processes (stakeholder fatigue').</p>	
4. Is your country collaborating with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work?	
a) no	
b) yes, limited collaboration (please provide details)	
c) yes, significant collaboration (please provide details)	X
Further comments on collaboration with other Governments and regional and international organizations and processes to implement regional or international activities in the expanded programme of work	
<p>- Switzerland plays an active role in the pan-european process 'Ministerial Conference for the protection of forests in Europe'. In the Vienna resolution 4 (2003) some activities of the expanded work programme were pointed out to be of high importance for the European region.</p> <p>- Switzerland also takes part and supports the Pan-European Biodiversity and Landscape Diversity Strategy, (PEBLDS) a common work programme between the Ministerial Conference 'Environment for Europe' and the 'Ministerial Conference for the protection of forests in Europe' (MCPFE). In the current work programme, which was passed by the ministers in Kiev and Vienna in spring 2003, the countries commit themselves to a certain number of priority actions of the CBD expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity.</p> <p>- With respect to the assessment of duplications between the IPF/IFF Proposals for action and the CBD expanded work programme, Switzerland welcomed the pioneer work done by Australia and PROFOR (World Bank)</p>	

Programme Element 1: Conservation, Sustainable Use and Benefit-sharing

5. Has your country developed practical methods, guidelines and/or indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management?	
a) no (please specify the reasons)	X
b) relevant methods, guidelines and indicators under development	
c) some methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
d) a comprehensive set of methods, guidelines and indicators developed (please provide details)	
Further comments on the practical methods, guidelines and indicators to apply the ecosystem approach in relation to sustainable forest management	

- It is worth noting that it took over 10 years to have the concept of sustainable forest management (in a broad sense, including ecol., social and economic values) be accepted and understood at the implementation level. Sustainable forest management has been mentioned as primary objective in the federal law on forests since 1991. The pan-european criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are now well established and used (e.g. framework for the national forest programme, framework for the reporting format for the Swiss National Forest Inventory and the Swiss Forest Report, reporting on sfm at the cantonal level etc). In the same time the Swiss Landscape Concept has been implemented as well as connectivity projects were finalised and implemented.
- Starting fall/winter 2003 Switzerland will engage in a formal analysis of the two concepts 'ecosystem approach' and 'sustainable forest management', in order to get more clarification of the already existing commonalities and the possible complementarities.

6. Has your country taken any measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biodiversity in accordance with international law?

a) no	
b) relevant measures under development	
c) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures)	X
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	

Further comments on the measures taken

- Switzerland applies the European regulations and guidelines to counteract invasive alien speices with a potential to cause damage. The regulations and guidelines include among other import and export conditions regarding packaging material and content as well as import and export conditions for timber and sawn timber.

7. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity?

a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	X

Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity

- Ordinance on Air Pollution Control with strict limitation of emission of stationary installations and requirements for fuel quality. Ratification of all the Protocols of the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution (ratification of Gothenburg protocol in preparation). Emission reduction from maximum of the eighties for SO2 > 70 %, for NOx > 25 % and for VOC > 35 %.

8. Has your country taken any measures to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant research and monitoring programmes under development	
c) some research and monitoring activities being undertaken but no measures taken	
d) yes, some measures taken (please outline the measures)	X
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland committed itself to a reduction of 8 % for the 1st commitment period of the Kyoto protocol. For mitigation and adaptation measures see the Third National Communication of Switzerland 2001 (see http://www.climatereporting.ch/overview2.html). 	
9. Has your country taken any measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression (where fire is a natural disturbance agent)?	
a) no	
b) relevant measures being considered	
c) relevant measures under development	
d) yes, some measures undertaken (please specify)	
e) yes, many measures being undertaken (please specify)	X
Further comments on the measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unless in an exceptional year like 2003 (very hot and dry summer), forest fire damage in Switzerland is negligible in comparison to other countries - Several measures are in place to prevent forest fires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o According to the federal forest law on forests (1991) land remains forest land even though the forest is burnt. Changing the land use by speculative burning is thus not possible. o In critical dry periods such as in summer 2003, individual cantons or the Federation can legally order a ban on setting any type of fire in the open (including camp fires). People acting against the order are fined. o Fighting the fire is done by cantonal or local firemen. Their income is regular and independent on what type of fire they fight. Thus speculative burning does not pay off. The Swiss military provides additional men in case of catastrophies. - In sensitive areas likely to be damaged by forest fires the Swiss Federation contributes financially to installations such as water pipes, fire roads, and storage ponds in order to facilitate the fire fighting. 	

10. Is your country mitigating effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur?	
a) no	
b) monitoring and assessment of effects ongoing	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some adopted and being implemented (please provide details)	X
e) yes, comprehensive measures adopted and being implemented (please provide further details)	
Further comments on measures adopted to mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programmes are in place by which riparian forests are restored in order to allow natural disturbance (periodic flooding) again. - Furthermore, strict forest reserves are set aside in order to allow natural processes and successional change to occur at their natural rate as well as to protect the biotic communities and ecological integrity. 	
11. Is your country preventing and mitigating losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes, some measures undertaken	X
b) yes, comprehensive measures undertaken	
12. Is your country restoring forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes?	
a) no	X
b) potential measures identified	
c) yes, some measures implemented in some areas (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive measures implemented in major areas (please provide details)	
Further comments on the measures to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes	
<p>In Switzerland there is an overall policy goal and longstanding tradition of close-to-nature forest management, which contributes to the prevention of degraded second growth forests. Compared to other countries the problem of degraded second growth forests is rather negligible.</p>	

13. Is your country promoting forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species?	
a) no	
b) relevant forest management practices under development	
c) yes, some practices adopted and promoted (please provide details)	X
d) yes, some practices being implemented (please provide details)	
Further comments on the forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Switzerland there are technical guidelines for forest management in areas where there are threatened or endangered species. In addition, special projects are drawn up for specific management of endangered or threatened species or areas (e.g. capercaillie projects) - Managed forest reserves are set aside as protected forest areas where clearly defined active management is practised (if required) in order to secure and maintain the habitat conditions necessary to protect rare plant and animal species and biotic communities, as well as to sustain traditional forest types (e.g. coppice, coppice with standards, selva and open stands). 	
14. Is your country ensuring adequate and effective protected forest area networks?	
a) no	
b) networks of protected areas being planned	
c) some protected areas established but networks not in place	
d) networks of protected areas taking shape	X
e) major networks of protected areas established	
15. Is your country promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant policy and programme under development	
c) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	
d) yes, comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Close-to-nature forest management has a longstanding tradition in Switzerland. In the framework of the Swiss National Forest Programme the criteria of ecologically sound forest management have been reviewed with the intention to make them legally binding. - In addition to the ecologically sound forest management on the entire Swiss forest area, special species conservation programmes are drawn up 	

16. Is your country preventing losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources?	
a) no	
b) potential measures identified	
c) some measures undertaken (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive measures undertaken (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the measures to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timbering forest resources	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swiss forest policy pursues the goal that removals of wood shall not exceed the increment (sustained yield principle). This goal was already mentioned in the Federal forest policy law of 1902, which was an era marked by the concern that a great demand for wood leads to excessive harvesting and thus to the decimation of forests. - With respect to non-wood forest products it is worth noting that according to the Swiss Civil Code the public has free access to all forests. Therefore, the public has free access to mushrooms, berries etc. Cantonal regulations are in place to control/limit the mushroom gathering. The Federal Law on Hunting and on the Protection of Mammals and Birds Living in the Wild contains regulations to ensure sustainable hunting. 	
17. Is your country taking any measure to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity?	
a) no	
b) not applicable	X
c) relevant policy and programme under development	
d) yes, some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes to enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity	
18. Has your country developed effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promoted implementation of those strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity?	
a) no	
b) relevant information system and strategy under development	
c) relevant information system in place	
d) relevant strategies in place (please provide details)	X
e) relevant information system and strategies in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the strategies for <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Genetic inventories have been made for a certain number of species (e.g. fir, spruce, oak, mountain ash), and strategies have been drawn up accordingly. The implementation is in progress. For other species (e.g. <i>Populus nigra</i>) inventories are currently underway. - A specific strategy to preserve the genetic diversity of all tree species (approx. 40) is currently in the process of elaboration, and will be implemented starting in 2007. 	
19. Is your country promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge?	
a) no	X
b) relevant policies and programmes under development	
c) some policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
d) comprehensive policies and programmes in place (please specify)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge	

Programme Element 2: Institutional and Socio-economic Enabling Environment

20. Is your country improving the understanding of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses?	
a) no	
b) a limited analysis being undertaken	
c) a thorough analysis being undertaken	X
d) yes, some analyses completed and results available (please outline some findings from these analyses)	
e) yes, comprehensive analysis completed and results available (please provide some findings from these analyses)	
Further comments on the analysis of the various causes of forest biodiversity losses	
21. Has your country integrated biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in some sectors (please provide details)	
d) yes, integrated into policies and programmes in major sectors (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes	

<p>- The protection of threatened species and their habitats is mentioned as an overall policy goal in the Law on Preservation of Nature and the Landscape. The preservation of fauna species diversity and of the habitat of native and migratory animals, as well as the protection of endangered species are also explicit goals of the Hunting Law. Furthermore, the Federal Forest Law mentions as an overall policy goal to protect the forests as a natural environment (i.e. ecologically sound forest management).</p> <p>- The Swiss national forest programme which will be finalised by the end of 2003 contains several objectives and activities related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.</p>	
22. Has your country developed good governance practices, reviewed and revised and implemented forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review and revision completed	
d) some good governance practices and related laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	
e) a comprehensive set of practices and laws developed and implemented (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the practices and laws developed and implemented to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	
<p>- 1999 a recognized international expert team assessed the sustainability of Swiss Forest Policy. All forest and forest-related laws and regulations have been reviewed in this process, strengths and weaknesses were identified. The results were integrated among other into the formulation of the Swiss National Forest Programme (see also www.swissnfp.ch)</p> <p>- Furthermore, other laws and regulations were developed in order to promote good governance and a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. For instance, the Swiss Landscape Concept stipulates binding objectives also for the forest area that are to be pursued by government departments in any of their activities which have implications for land use.</p>	
23. Is your country promoting forest law enforcement and addressing related trade?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	
e) yes, comprehensive measures in place to strengthen law enforcement and address related trade	X
24. Is your country mitigating the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) potential measures identified	
d) yes, some measures taken (please provide details)	X
e) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please provide details)	

Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biodiversity	
- Some measures were taken in the framework of the Swiss National Forest Programme	
25. Is your country increasing public support and understanding of the value of forest biodiversity and its goods and services at all levels?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place	X
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place	

Programme Element 3: Knowledge, Assessment and Monitoring

26. Has your country reviewed and adopted a minimum forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions and addressing key forest biodiversity elements?	
a) no	
b) review under way	
c) review completed	
d) a forest classification system adopted	X
27. Has your country developed national forest ecosystem classification systems and maps that use agreed international standards and protocols?	
a) no	
b) early stages of development	
c) advanced stages of development	
d) yes, classification systems in place	X
28. Has your country developed specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity?	
a) no	
b) under consideration	
c) relevant surveys being planned	
d) relevant surveys completed (please provide details)	X
e) results of relevant surveys available (please provide details)	
Further comments on the surveys of specific forest ecosystems in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	

29. Is your country advancing the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators based on key regional, subregional and national measures within the framework of sustainable forest management?	
a) no	
b) relevant programme under development	
c) some criteria and indicators developed (please provide details)	
d) comprehensive indicators developed (please provide details)	X
Further comments on the development and implementation of criteria and indicators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In Switzerland the pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management are well established and used (i.e. Swiss National Forest Inventory, Sustainability Assessment of Swiss Forest Policy, Sustainability monitoring at cantonal level, basic framework for Swiss National Forest Programme etc). - For some projects that list was completed to make it more relevant to the situation in Switzerland. 	
30. Has your country conducted key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?	
a) no	
b) research programs under development	
c) yes, some research programs conducted	X
d) yes, comprehensive research programs conducted	
31. Is your country enhancing and improving the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity, benefiting from the opportunities offered through the Clearing House Mechanism of CBD?	
a) no	
b) capacity building programme under development	
c) yes, some programmes in place (please provide details)	X
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place (please provide details)	
Further comments on the programmes to enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biodiversity	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switzerland is one of the first countries in the world to monitor its biological diversity. The Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape (SAEFL) has launched a programme for this purpose called Biodiversity Monitoring in Switzerland (BDM). In conjunction with the BDM programme, experts contracted by the Federal Government will regularly count animals and plants in numerous predetermined areas in the field. For further details see: www.biodiversitymonitoring.ch 	