

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

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

The information provided in this thematic report was based on an evaluation of the following data:

On the Federal-level informations were given by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry (BML), the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) and by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN).

On the Laender-level the following states have submitted their contributions:

Schleswig-Holstein, Hesse, Baden-Württemberg, Sachsen-Anhalt, Lower Saxony, Bavaria, Saxony, Rhineland-Palatinate and Mecklenburg-Western Pommerania.

We should like to point out that the replies, while actually representing a large portion of the competent authorities in Germany that were addressed, are not complete, and their evaluation may therefore not provide a representative picture of the overall situation with regard to some aspects.

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this decision by your country?

a) High	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	b) Medium	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?

a) Good	<input type="checkbox"/>	b) Adequate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c) Limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Severely limiting	<input type="checkbox"/>
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3. Has your country assessed the status and trends of its forest biological diversity and identified options for its conservation and sustainable use? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 12)

a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) assessment underway (please give details below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) assessment completed (please give details below)	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) not relevant	<input type="checkbox"/>

Explanatory notes:

‘**Standortkartierungen**’ – detailed mapping of all forests under various aspects (forest biotopes, forest functions) is performed in the following Federal Laender: Bavaria, Baden-Württemberg, Hesse, Mecklenburg-Western Pommerania, Lower Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein. These mappings are updated at regular intervals.

At Federal level the **Bundeswaldinventur** (Federal forest inventory) is compiled at regular intervals.

Individual targets are laid down at regular intervals in the ‘**Forsteinrichtungswerke**’ (special forest management documentation), taking account of the information from the above-mentioned mappings (Standortkartierungen).

In addition there are a number of **special research projects**:

Hesse: Since 1988 the ‘Naturwaldreservateprogramm’ (natural forest reserves programme), established as a permanent facility for documentation and research (1300 hectares, 30 plots)

Lower Saxony: ‘Waldprogramm’(forest programme)

Saxony-Anhalt: ‘Naturwaldzellenprogramm’ (Natural forest plots programme); ‘Erfassung, Schutz und Nutzung der Genressourcen von Waldbäumen und Sträuchern’ (Assessment, protection and utilization of forest genetic resources - trees and shrubs) (ex situ and in situ measures); ‘Erhaltung der genetischen Ressourcen von Bäumen und Sträuchern’ (conservation of tree and shrub genetic resources).

Saxony: Scientific monitoring of natural forest plots.

Federal-level: LEVEL I/ LEVEL II (Areas destined for permanent monitoring of the forest environment)

Rote Listen (Federal-level and Laender-level lists of endangered fauna and flora)

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

4. Has your country requested assistance through the financial mechanism for projects that promote the implementation of the focused work programme on forest biological diversity? (Decision IV/7, paragraph 7)

a) no

b) yes (please give details below)

Programme element 1: Holistic and inter-sectoral ecosystem approaches that integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking account of social and cultural and economic considerations

5. Has your country identified methodologies for enhancing the integration of forest biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into an holistic approach to sustainable forest management at the national level? (Work Programme, paragraph 13)	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not applicable	
<p><u>Explanatory notes:</u></p> <p>Conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity are ensured at national level through legislation, political and technical measures:</p> <p>Legal provisions relating to the sustainable management of forests, and to the conservation of fauna and flora are included – inter alia – in the following instruments: BWaldG (Federal Forestry Act), BNatSchG (Federal Nature Conservation Act), BJagdG (Federal Hunting Act), Implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, LandeswaldG (Laender forestry laws), Waldbaurichtlinien (forestry guidelines) of the individual Federal Laender.</p> <p>The Bundeswaldinventur (Federal forest inventory) and the NFP process (process towards a future national forestry programme (NFP)) and a strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the forests of Germany (BML: Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry) are technical and policy instruments used. Relevant approaches are also found in the forestry programmes of the Federal Laender. Baden-Württemberg, for example, is elaborating a forestry programme in line with the IPF (Intergovernmental Panel on Forests) principles. The forestry programme of Lower Saxony as a guideline for forestry policy is to provide the balanced interplay of forestry functions and to ensure the long-term sustainability of forest management under the aspect of forest land as an ecosystem.</p>	

6. Has your country developed methodologies to advance the integration of traditional forest-related knowledge into sustainable forest management, in accordance with Article 8(j)? (Work Programme, paragraph 14)	
a) no	
b) yes –limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	X
<u>Explanatory notes:</u>	
German forestry management is mainly based on the results of the past 200 years' work in forestry science.	

7. Has your country promoted cooperation on the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological resources at all levels in accordance with Articles 5 and 16 of the Convention? (Work Programme, paragraph 15)

a) no	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not applicable	

Explanatory notes:

At national level the exchange of experience is, *inter alia*, promoted by involvement of the Federal Laender in the elaboration of a Federal forestry strategy in the domain of biodiversity, the results of which are reflected in the forestry programmes of the individual Federal Laender. Europewide a ‘Helsinki follow-up process’ was initiated on the basis of the Forestry Ministerials for the protection of European forests. In addition Germany promotes projects within the framework of development cooperation:

Total contribution of Germany to the GEF’s biodiversity portfolio between 1991 and 2002: Approx. DM 506 mio. (approx. DM 46 mio./ year). With a share of 11-12% in the total budget, Germany ranks third.

The individual projects of German development cooperation are focused on differing objectives of the Convention. Since 1985 Germany has supported nearly 300 projects worldwide which serve the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Just to name a few examples: ‘Implementing the Biodiversity Convention’; ‘Tropical Ecology Support Program’ (TÖB) with sub-programmes ‘Promotion of Tropical Forest Research’ and ‘Coordination of Small-scale Applied Tropical Ecology Projects’; ‘Protected Area Management (ABS)/ Livelihood Systems and Tropical Forest Areas (LISTRA); ‘Promotion of International Agricultural Resarch’.

8. Has your country promoted the sharing of relevant technical and scientific information on networks at all levels of protected forest areas and networking modalities in all types of forest ecosystems? (Work Programme, paragraph 17)

a) no	
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b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

Explanatory notes:

The research results from supra-regional sectoral projects (cf. explanatory notes, Question 7: TÖB, ABS, LISTRA, etc.) are published and distributed via the Internet, by providing advice directly (mainly in developing countries) as well as by national and international conferences. Target groups for these publications are amongst others research facilities, Governments and NGOs.

Now after a decade in operation, a broad-spectrum network of multi- and bilateral organisations, private sector associations, NGOs and research institutions is available to the sectoral project 'TWRP'.

Germany is represented in the International Forestry Advisory Group (IFAG) and in the Europea Forestry Advisory Group (ETFAG).

Programme element 2: Comprehensive analysis of the ways in which human activities, in particular forest-management practices, influence biological diversity and assessment of ways to minimize or mitigate negative influences

9. Has your country promoted activities for an enhanced understanding of positive and negative human influences on forest ecosystems by land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and other relevant stakeholders (Work Programme, paragraph 29)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	

Explanatory notes:

Activities for an enhanced understanding of positive and negative human influences on forest ecosystems by land-use managers, policy makers, scientists and other relevant stakeholders are promoted by a bundle of activities, such as the following:

- Training and Testing Operations: Hessische Landesanstalt für Forsteinrichtung, Waldforschung und Waldökologie (Hesse Authority for Forestry Management, Forestry Research and Forest Ecology)
- Various research projects at universities
- Elaboration of a national forestry programme in dialogue with various societal groups
- Comprehensive training opportunities for private forest owners (especially for communicating the concept of ecologically oriented forest management (Konzept der Naturnahen Waldwirtschaft))
- Publications of the assessment and information service (aid).

10. Has your country promoted activities to assemble management experiences and scientific, indigenous and local information at the national and local levels to provide for the sharing of approaches and tools that lead to improved forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity? (Work Programme; paragraph 30)

a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

Explanatory notes:

With regard to ‘indigenous’: rather insignificant. However, Germany is making various efforts in different directions to improve forest practices with regard to forest biological diversity. Just to name a few examples: Public relations work, various Laender projects providing expert advice, and training programmes for private forest owners.

11. Has your country promoted activities with the aim of providing options to minimize or mitigate negative and to promote positive human influences on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 31)

a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	

Explanatory notes:

There are differing approaches and activities in Germany to reduce negative and to promote positive human influences on forest biological diversity. This may be confirmed by the following examples:

- Several Federal Laender have their forests **certified** (e. g. Schleswig-Holstein according to FSC criteria)
- Several Federal Laender issued **forestry guidelines** which they use as criteria for any support provided (e. g. Bavaria and Schleswig-Holstein)
- In **training and testing institutions** the direct influence of forestry work and the indirect impacts of emissions on forest biodiversity are examined (e. g. in Hesse: Hessische Landes-anstalt für Forsteinrichtung, Waldforschung und Waldökologie).
- **Programmes relating to cultural landscapes and concepts of contractual conservation** are being developed
- **'GAK' promotion** requires that specific criteria are met
- **Training programmes** are offered to private forest owners that are focused in particular on the concept of ecologically oriented forest management (e. g. in Baden-Württemberg)

12. Has your country promoted activities to minimize the impact of harmful alien species on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 32)

a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

Explanatory notes:

A risk of harmful impacts of alien species does exist because the well-adjusted ecotypes of native species may lose characteristic features through hybridisation. This risk is counteracted as follows:

- Legal provisions:
Plant Protection Act (Pflanzenschutzgesetz). Law on seed and seedlings used in silviculture (Gesetz über forstliches Saat- und Pflanzgut).
- Increased use of propagation material of native plant species with certified origin. For this purpose the working group on autochthonous species of trees and shrubs ("Arbeitsgruppe Autochthone Gehölze") was founded which is supported by the relevant biodiversity strategy initiated by the BML (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry) on forestry and biological diversity, a strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in German forests (BML, January 2000).
- No use of genetically modified organisms as a standard of the certification procedures in use
- Hunting of non-native species such as racoon and racoon dog
- Publications in the field of environmental research, e. g. 'Neophyten, Biologie, Verbreitung und Kontrolle ausgewählter Arten' (Neophytes, biology, distribution and control of certain species), Hartmann, E. et al, Landsberg, 1995.

13. Has your country identified means and mechanisms to improve the identification and prioritisation of research activities related to influences of human activities, in particular forest management practices, on forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 33)

a) minimal activity	
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b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
<u>Explanatory notes:</u>	
<p>Various research projects in Germany are focused on the impacts of forest management on forest biodiversity, e. g. special research area 433 of the DFG (“Buchendominierte Laubwälder auf Kalkböden unter dem Einfluß von Klima und Bewirtschaftung: Ökologische, waldbauliche und sozialwissenschaftliche Analysen” (Beech-dominated deciduous forests on calcareous soils under the influence of climate and management methods: Analysis under ecological, silvicultural and social science aspects’) in the Tuttlingen municipal forest 1999 – 2003, which may be extended until 2010). In Bavaria the Munich Technical University (TU München) is doing work on such issues. The projects are evaluated and a corresponding priority rating is performed if necessary.</p> <p>With its strategy on biological diversity, the BML aims at various measures to improve coordination between the various research institutions and to promote comparative assessment and evaluation of research results and their practical application.</p>	

14. Does your country hold research results and syntheses of reports of relevant scientific and traditional knowledge on key forest biological diversity issues and if so, have these been disseminated as widely as possible? (Work Programme, paragraph 34)	
a) not relevant	
b) some relevant material, but not widely disseminated	
c) significant material that could be more widely disseminated (please give details below)	X
d) yes – already widely disseminated (please give details below)	

<u>Explanatory notes:</u>	
<p>In Germany copious research results on forest biodiversity are available from projects of various research institutions, e. g. UBA (Federal Environmental Agency), BfN (Federal Agency for Nature Conservation), universities, etc. These results have been published and are accessible to the general public. A comprehensive compilation of such publications may be ordered from the “Ökowald”-databank of the FH für Forstwirtschaft, Rottenburg, under http://www.fh-rottenburg.de/greenlink/oekowald/index.html .</p>	

15. Has your country prepared case-studies on assessing impacts of fires and alien species on forest biological diversity and their influences on the management of forest ecosystems and savannahs? (Work Programme, paragraph 35)	
a) no – please indicate below whether this is due to a lack of available case-studies or for other reasons	X
b) yes – please give below any views you may have on the usefulness of the preparation of case-studies for developing a better biological understanding of the problem and/ or better management responses.	
<u>Explanatory notes:</u>	
<p>Since in Germany there is no significant concrete risk to forest biodiversity from fires</p>	

and alien species, there are no case studies on such topics.	
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Programme element 3: Methodologies necessary to advance the elaboration and implementation of criteria and indicators for forest biological diversity

16. Has your country assessed experiences gained in national and regional processes, identifying common elements and gaps in existing initiatives and improving indicators for forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	X
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
<p>Explanatory notes:</p> <p>Germany was a trial country for the development of sustainability indicators by the CSD (UN Commission on Sustainable Development). During the trial phase biodiversity-relevant indicators were also discussed and negotiated.</p> <p>In German forests a great variety of different monitoring measures were carried out (Bundeswaldinventur – Federal forest inventory -, Waldschadenserhebung – assessment of damage to forests (Level I), Untersuchung von Dauerbeobachtungsflächen – assessment of permanent-monitoring areas (Level II), Bodenzustandserhebung – assessment of the quality of soils) which provided important information on biological diversity.</p> <p>Further data on biodiversity are obtained within the framework of the mapping of forest functions and forest biotopes. These surveys are based on criterion 4 of the list of the ‘Helsinki criteria’ which is based on 5 different indicators.</p>	

17. Has your country carried out taxonomic studies and inventories at the national level which provide for a basic assessment of forest biological diversity? (Work Programme, paragraph 43)	
a) minimal activity	
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	X
d) not relevant	

<p>Explanatory notes:</p> <p>A wide range of taxonomic studies and inventories has been carried out in Germany; e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ‘Rote Listen’ (Lists of endangered species) at Federal and Laender levels ● Assessment and evaluation of permanent-monitoring areas (Level II) ● Forest biotope mappings and special forest management documentation (Forsteinrichtungswerke) ● ‘Naturwaldreservatprogramm’ in Hesse, a permanent documentation and research programme on an area of 1300 hectares (30 plots) of woodland in Hesse 	
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