

VOLUNTARY REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF EXPANDED PROGRAMME OF WORK ON
FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

Contracting Party:	Sri Lanka
<i>National Focal Point</i>	
Full name of the institution:	<i>Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources</i>
Name and title of contact officer:	<i>Mr. Thosapala Hewage, Secretary</i>
Mailing address:	<i>Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, "Sampathpaya", Rajamalwatte Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka</i>
Telephone:	<i>0094-12877290</i>
Fax:	<i>0094-12877292</i>
E-mail:	forest@sri.lanka.net thosapalahewage@hotmail.com
<i>Contact officer for national report (if different)</i>	
Name and title of contact officer:	<i>Mr. Gamini Gamage, Director (Biodiversity)</i>
Mailing address:	<i>Biodiversity Division, Ministry of Environment & Natural Resources, "Sampathpaya", Rajamalwatte Road, Battaramulla, Sri Lanka</i>
Telephone:	<i>0094-12887454</i>
Fax:	
E-mail:	<i>envgreen@sltnet.lk</i>
Submission	
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 report was prepared by Ms Champika Kariyawasam, Environmental Management Officer of the Biodiversity Secretariat, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources with technical advise and guidance of Dy. Director and Director (Biodiversity).

Information collected from literature survey was incorporated for the preparation of the report. This includes several State Reports and Status reports published by the Ministry, Recommendations given by the experts at technical meetings/ workshops, and various books and journals.

**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	
<p>Priority activities :</p> <p>Habitat mapping, Biodiversity survey, endemic species conservation action plan. Ecosystem Approach has been included into the TOR of the ongoing revision process of Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan (BCAP).</p> <p>Promote activities that minimize the negative impacts of forest fragmentation including aforestation, forest restoration, watershed management etc.</p> <p>Develop and implement strategies at regional and national level to mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species, strengthening quarantine regulation.</p> <p>Improve the knowledge of IAS , public education and awareness.</p> <p>Promote practice of fire prevention and control</p> <p>Determine the conservation needs of threatened and endemic species .</p> <p>Protected Area Management and Wildlife Conservation Project ensures adequate and effective protected area network.</p> <p>Survey and demarcation of all natural forest areas under Forestry Resources Management Project (FRMP- ADB project).</p>	
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)	
b) yes (please specify success stories)	✓
Further comments on impacts of implementation of priority activities	

National Conservation Review (NCR)

The objective of NCR is to define a national system of protected areas in which watersheds important for soil conservation and hydrology are protected and forest biodiversity is fully represented, while meeting the cultural, economic and social needs of the country.

The NCR of Sri Lanka was carried out by the Forest Department with technical assistance from IUCN – the World Conservation Union. This unique exercise constituted a systematic assessment of biodiversity in the natural forests of the country. The review covered all natural forests in the country of 200 ha or more, except those in sections of the north and east which were inaccessible due to political unrest. Between April 1991 and September 1996, 204 forests were subject to biodiversity assessment. Although the biodiversity assessment was restricted to woody plants, vertebrates, molluscs and butterflies, the NCR is hailed as one of the most detailed, comprehensive and innovative evaluations of its kind carried out on a country-wide scale to date. The study has yielded 69,400 records of 1,153 woody plant species and 24,000 records of 410 faunal species. A total of 281 forests were also evaluated for their importance in soil and water conservation.

The NCR reveals that, although Sri Lanka has an extensive protected area network covering almost 14% of its land area, critical gaps exist in the context of biodiversity and hydrology conservation. The present protected area network does not adequately represent some floristic regions of the country, including areas that occur within the biodiversity rich wet zone.

Conservation of Threatened Species and their habitats

Reviewing existing legal instruments and prepare a national strategy for species conservation is important to afford protection and recovery to threatened species of indigenous plants and animals and their populations.

IUCN Sri Lanka took an initiative in 1998 to prepare a list of nationally threatened species, using a set of objectively and scientifically defined criteria. This nationally important activity was done through an intensely participatory process, with the contributions of a large number of national experts.

Development of a National Species Conservation Strategy which is being formulated by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with IUCN- Sri Lanka will facilitate field-level conservation plans, continued research and monitoring; policy and legislative reform and coordination; and targeted education and awareness programs.

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)

✓

b) no

Further comments on challenges/impediments to implementation of priority activities

Financial constraints, lack of technical capacity, shortage of trained man power and poor participation of the other line Ministries/ Departments affects the successful implementation of the activities.

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)	
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	
The Government of Sri Lanka collaborate with IUCN Sri Lanka to implement several activities of the program, e.g. mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species, conservation of threatened spp.etc. Several projects implemented by the financial and technical assistance of the other Governments are underway.	

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)	
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	
<p>In the Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan biodiversity regions were identified primarily to facilitate the identification of spatially defined areas for conservation action.</p> <p>The identification of bio-regions for Sri Lanka is a new concept, and the demarcation in to bio-regions as proposed in this Plan should be treated as provisional.</p> <p>Establishment of Forest Estates .</p>	
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)	✓
d) yes, comprehensive measures taken (please outline the measures)	
Further comments on the measures taken	

Sri Lanka has identified about 21 spp of flora and 13 spp of fauna as alien invasive. Several workshops and symposia were carried out with the involvement of different groups of stakeholders in identifying these spp. The Ministry of Environment has done a great deal of work to manage and control of alien invasive spp.in many parts of the country. Mapping the spread of U europaeus in Horton Plains , producing the national list of invasive plants, survey of the spread of some invasive plants, carrying out of field awareness programs for grass root level officers etc. are some of the activities organized by the Ministry. Apart from that custom regulations were strictly enforced to prevent any unnecessary introductions.

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)	
Further comments on the measures taken to mitigate the impact of pollution on forest biodiversity	
National Environmental Act has given provisions for the implementation of EIA procedure and Environment protection Licences (EPL) and Environment Standards in Sri Lanka.	
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)	
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	
Still the full impact of climate change on forest biodiversity is not clear. However, Some adaptation research studies are underway by the Climate Change Enabling Activity Project Phase II. A new CDM policy is being developed by the Ministry of Environment.	
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)	
Further comments on the measures to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression	

Construction of fire belts in highly affected areas. Enforcement of strict laws to avoid accidental fires. Awareness programs, Popularization of fire resistant species, such as Acasia, Eucalyptus.	
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) monitoring and assessment of effects ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) potential measures identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) yes, some adopted and being implemented (please provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) yes, comprehensive measures adopted and being implemented (please provide further details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	
11. Is your country preventing and mitigating losses of forest biodiversity due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) potential measures identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes, some measures undertaken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) yes, comprehensive measures undertaken	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Is your country restoring forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) potential measures identified	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes, some measures implemented in some areas (please provide details)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) yes, comprehensive measures implemented in major areas (please provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Further comments on the measures to restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes	
Several project conducted by the Ministry of Environment did great deal of work on rehabilitation and management of degraded forests e.g Cultivation of native tree species in degraded natural forests, Surveying, demarcation of boundaries and mapping of forests , Integrated Management Planning etc.	
13. Is your country promoting forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species?	
a) no	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) relevant forest management practices under development	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) yes, some practices adopted and promoted (please provide details)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	
The Forest Department has published a Gazette Notification to ban the cutting down of certain highly threatened tree species. Forest Dept. has encouraged planting of threatened endemic species.	
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	✓
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)	
Further comments on the policies and programmes for promoting sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biodiversity	
Sri Lanka's Protected Areas(PA) account for 15 % of total land area . The Protected area management and wildlife conservation project (ongoing) will reform the sectors legal and institutional network in conjunction with capacity building, ecotourism development and the establishment of a sustainable financing mechanism for PA management. This project will be instrumental in establishing a PA system in Sri Lanka that protects wildlife biodiversity effectively and generates employment and income. Formulation of National Ecotourism policy for sustainable use of Forest Biodiversity will be finalized in next year (2004).	
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)	
Further comments on the measures to prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timbering forest resources	

In 1989 the Government of Sri Lanka placed a moratorium to ban felling in all natural forests of the wet zone which are highly rich on species and particularly endemics.

Many wet zone forests have been designated as “conservation forests” where no commercial logging is allowed.

The Soil Conservation Act (1951) prohibited the clearing of forests above 5,000 feet from the mean sea level since these area is considered as a ecologically highly sensitive area.

Creation of Buffer zones with multiple use non-timber forest species.

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

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

The Protected area management and wildlife conservation project is responsible for community strengthening and partnership building around Protected areas and it encourage policy and legislative change to enable sustainable management of national PA system.

Promotion of eco-tourism - Recruitment of guides from the adjacent communities to protect the forest.

Education and awareness programs on conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

Participatory forest management involving the local communities.

18. Has your country developed effective and equitable information systems and strategies and promoted implementation of those strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* 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)

e) relevant information system and strategies in place (please provide details)

Further comments on the strategies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic diversity

A national strategy for species conservation is being prepared reviewing existing legal instruments to afford protection and recovery to threatened species of indigenous plants and animals and their populations. This will facilitate field-level conservation plans, continued research and monitoring; policy and legislative reform and coordination; and targeted education and awareness programmes.

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	
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	
<p>The present status and gaps of national legal instruments related to access and benefit sharing has been reviewed. Based on the gaps analysis of existing legislation related to Biodiversity, a new Biodiversity Law on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits was recommended. And now this is in draft stage. A new legal instrument for medicinal plant traditional knowledge has been developed . Formulation of National Policy on Traditional Knowledge is in progress.</p>	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

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	
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	
<p>Deforestation, encroachment and over exploitation, illegal mining could be the major causes of loss of forest biodiversity.</p> <p>Apart from that, Introduction of invasive alien species(IAS) is becoming a threat to forest biodiversity, e.g. <i>Clidemia hirta</i> in Singharaja wet zone forest (however the threat caused by IAS is relatively low in natural forests). Environmental pollution can highly affect on the populations of sensitive species such as lichens , algae etc.</p>	
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)	
Further comments on the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes	
<p>Wildlife and forest sectors directly address biodiversity and sustainable use in their relevant policies. There is a growing tendency of recognizing this in other sectoral policies as well. But still there are no linkages in the sectoral action plans. Since the biodiversity is a cross cutting issue this affects the satisfactory implementation of action programs.</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)	
Further comments on the practices and laws developed and implemented to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity	

There has been a considerable re-orientation in policy adopted by the Forest Department over the years, with forest policy increasingly moving towards conserving the nations forest biodiversity, e.g. creation of conservation forests to conserve biodiversity rich wet zone forests and the trend to link the management of Conservation Forests with development activities in the buffer zone.	
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	
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)	
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	
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	
d) yes, comprehensive programmes in place	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

<p>The Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan(BCAP) - Framework for action and the strategy for Biodiversity conservation identifies different sectors of biodiversity as separate chapters. Issues of these sectors have been identified and relevant recommendations have been given. Revision of the BCAP will address the activities and institutions recommended. It is anticipated to incorporate these policies into sectoral policies of each institutions identified.</p>

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	
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	
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)	✓
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	
<p>The National Conservation Review (NCR) was done to define a national system of protected areas in which watersheds important for soil conservation and hydrology are protected and forest biodiversity is fully represented, while meeting the cultural, economic and social needs of the country.</p> <p>This unique exercise constituted a systematic assessment of biodiversity in the natural forests of the country. The review covered all natural forests in the country of 200 ha or more, except those in sections of the north and east which were inaccessible due to political unrest. Between April 1991 and September 1996, 204 forests were subject to biodiversity assessment. Habitat mapping and total biodiversity survey for selected 8 protected areas will be started in next year.</p>	
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)	
Further comments on the development and implementation of criteria and indicators	

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	✓
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)	
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	

If your country wishes to provide additional information on implementation of this programme element, please do this in the following space.

--

- - - - -