

*Please provide to following details on the origin of this report*

Contracting Party	NAMIBIA
<b><i>National Focal Point</i></b>	
Full name of the institution:	Namibian National Biodiversity Programme Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Name and title of contact officer:	Dr Phoebe Barnard
Mailing address:	Private Bag 13306 Windhoek Namibia
Telephone:	+264-61-249015
Fax:	+264-61-240339
E-mail:	pb@dea.met.gov.na
<b><i>Contact officer for national report (if different)</i></b>	
Name and title of contact officer:	
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
<b><i>Submission</i></b>	
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 following documentation and workshops have been reviewed/attended:

- Directorate of Forestry (1996). Namibia Forestry Strategic Plan. Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- UNEP (1996). Biological Diversity and Forests. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Buenos Aires, Working Paper UNEP/CBD/6/16.
- Tuomasjukka, T. (1998). Environmental Forestry in Namibia: Conservation of strategic forests for national benefit. Directorate of Forestry, Windhoek.
- Directorate of Forestry (1998). A report on community based forest resource management in North Central Namibia. Workshop for community based natural resource management. Okaukuejo.
- Directorate of Forestry, (1998). Forest Policy Workshops on Conservation Issues. Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Windhoek.
- Burke (1999). Forest conservation within the protected areas network system of Namibia. Report for Namibia-Finland Forestry Programme, Ministry of Environment and Tourism.
- Burke (1999). Forest Biodiversity Sector Paper, Part 1 and 2. Report for Namibian National Biodiversity Programme, Directorate of Environmental Affairs.
- Convention on Biological Diversity (1999). Indicators of forest biodiversity. <http://www.biodiv.org>.
- Directorate of Forestry (2000). Consultative Process to Develop National Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Namibia. Proceedings of the Second Workshop, Windhoek, 22-23 February 2000.
- Directorate of Forestry (2000). Namibian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management. Namibia-Finland Forest Programme, working documents.
- Environmental Forestry in Namibia (2001). Conservation of strategic forests for the national benefit. Workshop, 22 February 2001, Windhoek.

In addition, an update on recent developments in Namibia's Forestry Sector in 2001 was obtained from

- Mr M. Chakanga, Chief Forester, Inventory, Directorate of Forestry.
- Mr H. Seppänen, Consultant team leader, Namibia-Finland Forestry Programme.

Input by the Forest Biodiversity Working Group of the Namibian National Biodiversity Programme was obtained via e-mail.

**Decision IV/7 on Forest biological Diversity**

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this decision by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	
				d) Severely limiting	

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	
b) assessment underway (please give details below)	x
c) assessment completed (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

<b><i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i></b>	
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	x
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)	x
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	
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)	x
d) not applicable	
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	x
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	

d) not applicable	
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	x
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not applicable	

***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	x
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
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	x
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
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	

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	x
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
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	x
b) yes – limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant extent (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
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	x
b) some relevant material, but not widely disseminated	
c) significant material that could be more widely disseminated (please give details below)	
d) yes - already widely disseminated (please give details below)	
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.	

***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	x
b) yes – limited assessment made (please give details below)	
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	
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)	x
c) yes – significant assessment made (please give details below)	
d) not relevant	

***If you have ticked any of the boxes in questions 5 to 17 above which invite you to provide further details, please do so here.***

***(Information can include descriptions of methodologies and of activities undertaken, reasons for success or failure, outcomes and lessons learned)***

3b) The definition and assessment of "strategic" forests (i.e. forest conservation areas) is in process at the Directorate of Forestry. The definition of national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management at the Directorate of Forestry is completed. Activities in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan supplement assessments towards identification of forest conservation areas and indicators for forest biodiversity.

5b) Environmental Forestry is one of the four main components of Namibia's Forestry Programme. This includes a focus on maintenance of forest ecosystems for sustainable use. On a strategic level forest biodiversity conservation has thus been recognised as a priority. On a practical level knowledge on Namibia's forest ecosystems is severely limited and largely restricted to woody resources. Methodologies to enable a holistic approach to forest biodiversity management will have to focus on improving the forest ecosystem knowledge base.

6b) On a local level the development of forest management criteria is based on traditional forest management practises. Entrenched in the community forestry component of Namibia's Forestry Programme, management guidelines for forest areas are to be developed in a consultative process with local leadership giving significant input.

11c) The development of forest management guidelines in consultation with local communities provides an excellent tool for information exchange and awareness, and a forum for discussing, questioning and reviewing forest management practises with evident negative impacts.

15a) Lack of resources (manpower, funds) rather than the lack of opportunities for case studies has prevented the initiation of case studies addressing impacts of fire or aliens on forest biodiversity.

17b) Namibia's Forest Inventory Programme provides ample information on woody resources, but lacks detailed information on other elements of biodiversity, such as fauna and non-woody vegetation.