

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

Contracting Party	Norway
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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 Forestry Department of the Ministry of Agriculture prepared the draft report, which was then reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and the Directorate for Nature Management.

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

1. What is the relative priority afforded to implementation of this decision by your country?					
a) High	x	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?					
a) Good		b) Adequate	x	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	
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	
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
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	
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	x
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	x
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	x
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	x
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	x
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	
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)	
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	
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.	x

**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)	
c) yes - significant assessment made (please give details below)	x
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)*

3.

- Forest resources have been systematically assessed by the National Forest Survey since 1919. Results from the 7<sup>th</sup> countrywide survey were presented at the end of 1999. An extensive number of variables concerning forest conditions, including some data relevant for biological diversity, are being recorded.
- The forest policy, including incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, was revised in 1998-1999. The policy is presented in a white paper: Report to the Storting No. 17 (1998-99) (Only in Norwegian language).
- The policy on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is presented in a white paper: Report to the Storting No. 42 (2000-2001).
- The Government has developed a comprehensive national environmental action plan for the period of 2001-2004, with emphasis on biological diversity. This is followed up by an implementation plan for the forest sector.
- Norway has developed national level criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and standards for forest operations.
- Norway has developed a methodology for collecting information on forest bio-diversity and key biotopes at forest property level. Regular inventories starts in 2001.

4. Not relevant.

5.

- The continuous process to develop, revise and implement the forest policy is supported by various inter-ministerial committees to ensure that the policy becomes an integral part of the national sustainable development strategy.
- Methodologies/mechanisms are addressed in the White Paper; Report to the Storting No. 17 (1998-99). The White Paper constitutes the national forest programme of Norway, and includes provisions for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- The Government has started the preparation of a new Forest Act. The new Forest Act shall reflect the balance between economic, social, cultural and environmental functions of forests.

6.

- In Norway the indigenous Sami people live largely in non-forested areas in the extreme north of the country.

7.

- Co-ordination mechanisms have been established to ensure participation by county and municipal authorities, as well as forest owner organisations, forest industries, NGOs, research and extension institutes and other stakeholders.
- The conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity is integrated in strategies and plans at county and municipal levels.

8.

- Protected areas in Norway until 1994 were presented in a national report in 1995. ("Nature Protection Areas in Norway" in Norwegian).

9.

- In 1995, the forest sector (including the forest industry) in collaboration with several NGOs, labour organisations and customer interests and the forest and environmental authorities started a 3-year project called "Living Forests". Information and competence building were important aspects of the project. The main result was, however, the development of a set of criteria, indicators and standards for sustainable forest management, adapted to national conditions, and within the framework of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe. These criteria and indicators are important tools for policy development, policy monitoring as well as reporting. The negotiated standards form the basis of a certification system for the forestry sector in Norway.
- In 1997 the Ministry of Agriculture introduced an environmental research project aimed primarily at improving knowledge of forest bio-diversity and key biotopes. The main objective was to develop a scientifically based mapping method, which can be used as a tool in forest management planning. Regular inventories starts in 2001.
- Extension programmes are employed to promote enhanced understanding and improve forest operations by forest owners, workers and officers.

10.

- See question 9.

11.

- See question 9.

12.

- Use of non-indigenous tree species in forestry is integrated in the forest policy in parts of the country. Assessments on natural diffusion of some alien invasive tree species are carried out. Risk analyses and assessments are also performed for alien organisms harmful to important indigenous species. For those there are legal basis for prevention, control and eradication, and national strategies are developed.
- From 2001 inventories of (selected) alien invasive species will be included in the national forest survey.
- See also the reporting in the main national report for Norway.

13.

- Strategies for identification and prioritisation of research activities are carried out by the Norwegian research council in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Environment.

14.

- Some scientific results have been widely disseminated nationally but are in preparation for international publication.



15.

- See question 12 (alien species).
- Case studies on assessing impacts on fires are of limited extent.

16.

- Norway has applied national indicators as a tool for monitoring, assessment and policy evaluation since the turn of the century. Improvements of indicators have been a continuous process up to now, and there is a need for further improvements in the future.
- Norway is an active participant in the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) and has been contributing in the development of the pan-European criteria and indicators. Through the project "Living Forests" (see question 9.) Norway has developed a set of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, based on the pan-European criteria and indicators, and adapted to national conditions. The MCPFE has recently evaluated the efficiency of the pan-European indicators, and is in the process of improving them. Norway will consider improvements of our national indicators based on the results of this process and our own experience.

17.

- A limited number of taxonomic studies (e.g. on some insects) have been carried out. Some databases are operated by university museums and by research institutions.
- See also the reporting in the main national report for Norway.