

Please provide to following details on the origin of this report

Contracting Party	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
National Focal Point	
Full name of the institution:	National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (NCWCD)
Name and title of contact officer:	Dr. Abdulaziz H. Abuzinada Secretary General
Mailing address:	P.O. Box 61681 Riyadh 11575 Saudi Arabia
Telephone:	+ 966 1 441 8700
Fax:	+ 966 1 441 0797
E-mail:	ncwcd@zajil.net
Contact officer for national report (if different)	
Name and title of contact officer:	Same as above
Mailing address:	
Telephone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting national report:	
Date of submission:	13 Sept 2004

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

This report has been prepared by NCWCD in close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and in consultation with the members of the National Committee on Biodiversity. Independent researchers and academics also provided input.

The following reports, among others, have been used as reference material in the preparation of the report:

Mustafa A. Al-Shoubagy and Abdulrahman Nasir Al-Dawood: Natural Resources of Saudi Arabia. Ministry of Agriculture

Range and Forestry Department: Range and Forestry in Saudi Arabia Ministry of Agricultural

Kamal H. Badi and Abdulrahman N. Al-Dawood: The Natural Forests in Saudi Arabia. Ministry of Agriculture

Department of Range and Forestry: Efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture in developing the natural plant cover. Ministry of Agriculture

NCWCD: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (draft). NCWCD

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	x
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					
<i>If a developing country Party or a Party with economy in transition -</i>					
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)	x
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	x
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	
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)	x
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	
b) yes - limited extent (please give details below)	x
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)	x
c) yes - significant extent (please give details below)	
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	
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	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)	
c) yes - significant assessment made (please give details below)	X
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. An assessment of the juniper forests of Raydah (Assir) has been completed, plans for other areas are on the pipeline.

5. Such approaches currently remain scattered, progressive integration is expected. The National Forest Plan which is presently awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers, regards conservation and sustainable use as integral parts of the forest management strategy. The methodologies in question will be formulated as the implementation of the Plan progresses.

6. The traditional Hima systems that are still exist in certain areas serve as de facto protected areas, based on community knowledge and managed by the communities.

8. The joint studies, involving Saudi and Japanese experts, on the die-back and die-off phenomena juniper forests is one such example

11. Forests and Rangelands Act (1979) addresses the issue of minimising /mitigating the negative human impacts.

12. New efforts are being planned to minimise the impact of IAS

13. This will be undertaken with capacity improvement

14. Several research reports, papers in peer-reviewed journals, and mimeographed reports are available for distribution.

15. Such case studies are yet to be done

17. Ministry of Agriculture and NCWCD have published several reports of such studies.