

Ministry of the Environment

# Second National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity BRAZIL



Biodiversidade **10**

**SECOND NATIONAL REPORT TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
BRAZIL**

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**SECOND NATIONAL REPORT TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
BRAZIL**

**Brasília  
2004**

## SECOND NATIONAL REPORT OF BRAZIL TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY: BRAZIL

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Photo: Rafael Oliveira

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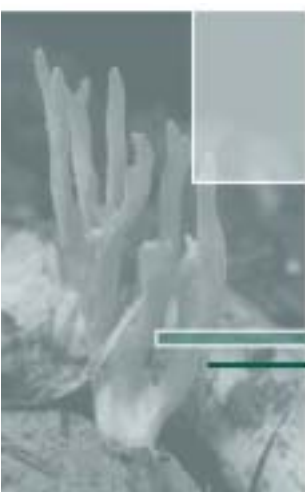
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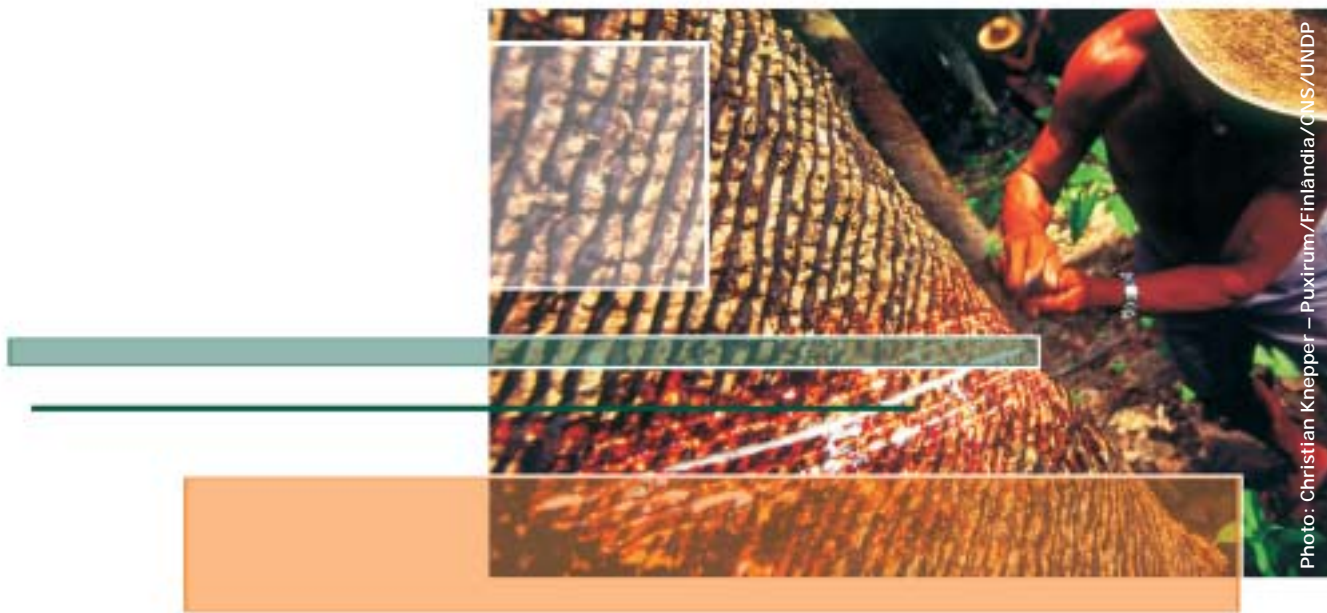
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# List of Acronyms

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>ARIE</b>     | <i>Área de Relevante Interesse Ecológico</i> - Area of Relevant Ecological Interest   |
| <b>APA</b>      | <i>Área de Proteção Ambiental</i> - Environmental Protection Area   |
| <b>ARPA</b>     | <i>Áreas Protegidas da Amazônia</i> - Amazon Region Protected Areas   |
| <b>BIOVIDA</b>  | <i>Programa Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos</i> - Biodiversity and Genetic Resources Programme  |
| <b>BNDES</b>    | <i>Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social</i> - Brazilian Bank for Economic and Social Development  |
| <b>CAPES</b>    | <i>Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior</i> - Higher Education Authority   |
| <b>CBAB</b>     | <i>Cooperação Brasil-Argentina em Biotecnologia</i> - Brazil-Argentina Cooperation in Biotechnology   |
| <b>CBD</b>      | Convention on Biological Diversity  |
| <b>CEMAVE</b>   | <i>Centro Nacional de Pesquisas para a Conservação de Aves Silvestres</i> - National Research Centre for Bird Conservation                                |
| <b>CENARGEN</b> | <i>Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Recursos Genéticos e Biotecnologia</i> - National Research Centre for Genetic Resources and Biotechnology               |
| <b>CENSIPAM</b> | <i>Centro Gestor e Operacional do SIPAM</i> - Operational Managing Centre of SIPAM  |
| <b>CGEN</b>     | <i>Conselho de Gestão do Patrimônio Genético</i> - Council for the Administration and Management of Genetic Patrimony                                     |
| <b>CI</b>       | Conservation International  |
| <b>CNPq</b>     | <i>Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico</i> - National Council for Scientific and Technological Development                      |
| <b>CONABIO</b>  | <i>Comissão Nacional de Biodiversidade</i> - National Commission for Biodiversity   |
| <b>CONAFLO</b>  | <i>Comissão Coordenadora do Programa Nacional de Florestas</i> - Coordinating Commission of the National Programme for Forests                            |
| <b>CONAMA</b>   | <i>Conselho Nacional do Meio Ambiente</i> - National Environment Council  |
| <b>CONTAG</b>   | <i>Confederação Nacional de Trabalhadores na Agricultura</i> - National Confederation of Works in Agriculture   |
| <b>COP</b>      | Conference of the Parties   |
| <b>CPRAA</b>    | <i>Comitê Permanente para Recuperação da Ararinha-Azul</i> - Permanent Committee for the Recovery of Spix's Macaw   |
| <b>CTNBIO</b>   | <i>Comissão Técnica Nacional de Biossegurança</i> - National Technical Commission on Biosafety  |
| <b>EMATER</b>   | <i>Empresa de Assistência Técnica e Extensão Rural</i> - Rural Extension and Technical Assistance Company   |
| <b>EMBRAPA</b>  | <i>Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária</i> - Brazilian Agricultural and Cattle-Breeding Research Company  |
| <b>FAPESP</b>   | <i>Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo</i> - São Paulo State Research Support Foundation   |
| <b>FAT</b>      | <i>Fundo de Amparo ao Trabalhador</i> - Worker's Support Fund   |
| <b>FBDS</b>     | <i>Fundação Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento Sustentável</i> - Brazilian Foundation for the Sustainable Development                                      |
| <b>FEMA</b>     | <i>Fundação Estadual do Meio Ambiente</i> - State Fund for the Environment  |
| <b>FINEP</b>    | <i>Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos</i> - Financing Agency for Research and Projects  |
| <b>FIOCRUZ</b>  | <i>Fundação Oswaldo Cruz</i> - Oswaldo Cruz Foundation  |
| <b>FLONA</b>    | <i>Floresta Nacional</i> – National Forest  |
| <b>FNMA</b>     | <i>Fundo Nacional do Meio Ambiente</i> - National Environment Fund  |
| <b>FUNASA</b>   | <i>Fundação Nacional de Saúde</i> - National Health Foundation  |
| <b>FUNATURA</b> | <i>Fundação Pró-natureza</i> - Pro-Nature Foundation  |
| <b>FUNBIO</b>   | <i>Fundo Brasileiro para Biodiversidade</i> - Brazilian Biodiversity Fund   |
| <b>FUNDHAM</b>  | <i>Fundação Museu do Homem Americano</i> - American Man Museum Foundation   |
| <b>FUNPAR</b>   | <i>Fundação da Universidade Federal do Paraná</i> - Federal University of Paraná Foundation   |
| <b>FUNTAC</b>   | <i>Fundação de Tecnologia do Estado do Acre</i> - Technological Foundation of the State of Acre   |
| <b>GEF</b>      | Global Environment Facility   |
| <b>GIS</b>      | Geographic Information System   |
| <b>GISP</b>     | Global Invasive Species Programme   |
| <b>GMO</b>      | Genetically Modified Organism   |
| <b>IADB</b>     | Inter-American Development Bank   |
| <b>IAP</b>      | <i>Instituto Ambiental do Paraná</i> - Environmental Institute of Paraná  |
| <b>IBAMA</b>    | <i>Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e dos Recursos Naturais Renováveis</i> - Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources |

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>INPA</b>      | <i>Instituto Nacional de Pesquisa da Amazônia</i> - National Institute for Amazon Research   |
| <b>INPE</b>      | <i>Instituto de Pesquisas Espaciais</i> - National Institute for Space Research  |
| <b>IPAM</b>      | <i>Instituto de Pesquisa Ambiental da Amazônia</i> – Institute for Environmental Research of the Amazon  |
| <b>ISPN</b>      | <i>Instituto Sociedade, População e Natureza</i> - Institute for Society, Population and Nature  |
| <b>JBRJ</b>      | <i>Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro</i> - Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden   |
| <b>JICA</b>      | Japan International Cooperation Agency   |
| <b>KFW</b>       | Institute of Credit for Reconstruction   |
| <b>LBA</b>       | Large Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experience in Amazonia  |
| <b>MADAM</b>     | Mangrove Dynamics and Management   |
| <b>MCT</b>       | <i>Ministério da Ciência e Tecnologia</i> – Ministry of Science and Technology   |
| <b>MDA</b>       | <i>Ministério do Desenvolvimento Agrário</i> - Ministry of Agrarian Development  |
| <b>MIQCB</b>     | <i>Movimento Interestadual das Quebradeiras de Coco Babaçu</i> - Inter-state Movement of Babassu Palm Fruit Crackers Project   |
| <b>NEMA</b>      | <i>Núcleo de Educação e Monitoramento Ambiental</i> - Nucleus of Education and Environmental Monitoring  |
| <b>NGO</b>       | Non-governmental Organization  |
| <b>NUPAUB</b>    | <i>Núcleo de Pesquisas sobre Populações Humanas e Áreas Úmidas</i> - Research Nucleus on Human Populations and Wetlands  |
| <b>PARNA</b>     | <i>Parque Nacional</i> - National Park   |
| <b>PIACD</b>     | <i>Plano de Intensificação das Ações de Controle da Dengue</i> - Intensification Plan for Control Measures for Dengue Fever  |
| <b>PNF</b>       | <i>Programa Nacional de Florestas</i> - National Programme for Forests   |
| <b>POLANTAR</b>  | <i>Política Nacional para Assuntos Antárticos</i> - National Policy for Antarctic Affairs  |
| <b>PPA</b>       | <i>Plano Plurianual</i> - Pluri-annual Plan  |
| <b>PPBIO</b>     | <i>Programa de Pesquisa em Biodiversidade</i> - Biodiversity Research Programme  |
| <b>PPG7</b>      | <i>Programa Piloto para a Proteção das Florestas Tropicais do Brasil</i> - Pilot Programme for the Protection of the Tropical Forests of Brazil  |
| <b>PROANTAR</b>  | <i>Programa Antártico Brasileiro</i> - Brazilian Antarctic Programme   |
| <b>PROBEM</b>    | <i>Programa Brasileiro de Ecologia Molecular para o Uso Sustentável da Biodiversidade da Amazônia</i> - Brazilian Programme for Molecular Ecology for the Sustainable Use of Amazon Biodiversity |
| <b>PROBIO</b>    | <i>Projeto de Conservação e Utilização Sustentável da Diversidade Biológica Brasileira</i> - Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Brazilian Biological Diversity                  |
| <b>PRODEAGRO</b> | <i>Programa de Desenvolvimento do Agronegócio</i> - Development Programme for Agribusiness   |
| <b>PRODECER</b>  | <i>Programa Desenvolvimento dos Cerrados</i> - Development Program for the <i>Cerrado</i>  |
| <b>PRODES</b>    | <i>Projeto de Monitoramento de Áreas Desflorestadas na Amazônia Legal</i> - Project for the Monitoring of Deforested Areas in the Amazon Region  |
| <b>PRONABIO</b>  | <i>Programa Nacional da Diversidade Biológica</i> - National Biodiversity Programme  |
| <b>PRONAF</b>    | <i>Programa Nacional de Agricultura Familiar</i> - National Program of Family Agriculture  |
| <b>REBIO</b>     | <i>Reserva Biológica</i> – Biological Reserve  |
| <b>RPPN</b>      | <i>Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural</i> - Private Natural Heritage Reserve   |
| <b>SAF</b>       | <i>Secretaria de Agricultura Familiar</i> – Secretary for Family Agriculture   |
| <b>SEDAM</b>     | <i>Secretaria de Estado do Desenvolvimento Ambiental</i> – State Secretary for Environmental Development   |
| <b>SEFE</b>      | <i>Secretaria Executiva de Florestas e Extrativismo</i> - Executive Secretariat of Forests and Extractivism  |
| <b>SIPAM</b>     | <i>Sistema de Proteção da Amazônia</i> - Amazon Protection System  |
| <b>SPVS</b>      | <i>Sociedade de Pesquisa em Vida Selvagem e Educação Ambiental</i> - Society for Research on Wildlife and Environmental Education  |
| <b>SQA</b>       | <i>Secretaria de Qualidade Ambiental nos Assentamentos Humanos</i> - Secretariat for Environmental Quality in Human Settlements  |
| <b>TAMAR</b>     | <i>Projeto Tartarugas Marinhas</i> – Marine Turtles Project  |
| <b>TNC</b>       | <i>The Nature Conservancy</i>  |
| <b>UC</b>        | <i>Unidade de Conservação</i> – Conservation Unit  |
| <b>UNDP</b>      | United Nations Development Programme   |
| <b>WAVES</b>     | Water Availability, Vulnerability of Ecosystems and Society in North-eastern Brazil  |
| <b>WWF</b>       | World Wildlife Fund  |
| <b>ZEE</b>       | <i>Zoneamento Ecológico-Econômico</i> - Ecological-Economic Zoning   |

# Preface




The Second National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) presents the degree of implementation of the CBD in Brazil up to December 2002. In this sense, it contains information on important initiatives conducted by the federal and state governments as well as the Brazilian society to achieve the CBD's objectives and articles.

Significant changes in biodiversity management have occurred since 2003, when the new Brazilian government came in. Biodiversity management begun, then, to favor the adoption of social and environmental approaches, reinforcing the role of specific actors, such as indigenous peoples, extractivist communities, social movements and small farmers.

Among the important initiatives taken by the new government, I wish to highlight the establishment of the *Comissão Nacional de Biodiversidade – CONABIO* [National Commission for Biodiversity – CONABIO] by the Presidential Decree nº. 4.703/2003. CONABIO's objective is to implement the principles of the CBD, including the knowledge, the conservation and the sustainable use of the Brazilian biodiversity, with the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from their use. Co-ordinated by the *Ministério do Meio Ambiente – MMA* [Ministry of the Environment – MMA] and initially composed by eight representatives from the federal government and eight from non-governmental organizations, CONABIO has included, since the Presidential Decree nº. 4.897/2004, representatives from the *Confederação Nacional de Trabalhadores na Agricultura – CONTAG* [National Confederation of Workers in Agriculture – CONTAG] and the *Instituto Brasileiro do Meio Ambiente e Recursos Naturais Renováveis – IBAMA* [Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources – IBAMA]. CONABIO's obligations comprise, beyond the coordination of the implementation of the CBD's commitments in Brazil, the coordination and articulation for implementation of the National Biodiversity Policy, the coordination of the *Programa Nacional da Diversidade Biológica – PRONABIO* [National Biodiversity Programme – PRONABIO], the incentive for researches, and the stimulus to capacity building.

Additionally to these changes aiming at the conservation and sustainable use of the Brazilian biodiversity, MMA and IBAMA, in partnership with the *Fundação Biodiversitas* [Biodiversitas Foundation], the *Sociedade Brasileira de Zoologia* [Brazilian Zoology Society], the non-governmental organizations Conservation International and *Terra Brasilis*, and




universities launched the New List of Threatened Species of the Brazilian Fauna in the International Day of Biological Diversity in 2003. This list, which had not been updated since 1989, contained 395 animals. Contrary to previous editions, this list promotes the conservation of habitats and the species which live in these habitats. In the International Day of Biological Diversity of the following year, the National List of Threatened Aquatic Invertebrates and Fish was launched. These two lists are the foundation for elaboration of public policies for conservation of our country's biodiversity.

Another mark for decision making on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use was the signature of the Presidential Decree nº. 5.092/2004, which defines rules for the identification of priority areas for the conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing of the Brazilian biodiversity. Based upon this Decree, Edict nº. 126 of the MMA recognized as policy instrument the 900 priority areas identified by the *Projeto de Conservação e Utilização Sustentável da Diversidade Biológica Brasileira – PROBIO* [Project for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Brazilian Biological Diversity – PROBIO] of the MMA for the formulation and implementation of public policies, programs, projects and activities under federal responsibility. In order to assist decision making, these areas have been classified in three categories according to their importance to Brazilian biodiversity protection: extremely high, very high and high. There is also an indication of areas insufficiently known and that demand studies for defining their degree of priority. Altogether, the project mapped 385 areas in the Amazon, 87 in the Cerrado and Pantanal, 82 in the Caatinga, 182 in the Atlantic Forest, and 164 in the Coastal and Marine Zones. The recommendations proposed in the new map include the need for integration among the ministries for the identification of the interfaces among the environmental, agrarian, agricultural, hydrological, educational, of health and of energy issues based on capacity building of municipalities as executing agents.

The MMA has also implemented a new action called *Fomento à Implantação de Sistemas Comunitários de Conservação e Uso Sustentável da Agrobiodiversidade* [Support for the Establishment of Community Systems for Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use] under the *Programa de Uso Sustentável e Conservação dos Recursos Genéticos do Plano Plurianual - PPA 2004-2007* [Program for Sustainable Use and Conservation of the Genetic Resources of the Pluri-annual Government Plan - PPA 2004-2007]. Its main objective is the promotion of food security and autonomy of local communities. This action is targeted to family farmers, traditional communities and indigenous peoples, and is based on the demands of the civil society, who promote agrobiodiversity sustainable use. The activities are concentrated in four major lines: (1) return and cultivation of *crioulo* [landrace] seeds; (2) management and good practices of medicinal plants manipulation; (3) sustainable agroextractivist management; and (4) production in agroforestry systems. The main project in execution is the implementation of Dissemination Centers of Agrobiodiversity Management in settlements of agrarian reform, involving directly 5,000 families of small farmers and, indirectly, 25,000 families, in 10 states. This project's challenge is the enlargement of these activities to other social movements and other states, in order to significantly induce a change in the current model of land use to a model based on the sustainable use of the natural resources, which is more appropriate to Brazilian family agriculture.

Concerned with the risks that threaten Brazilian biodiversity regarding the introduction of exotic species, MMA consolidated the *Plano Estratégico de Ação Regional para o Controle de Gestão de Água de Lastro e Espécies Aquáticas Invasoras* [Strategic Plan for Regional Action to the Control of Ballast Water Management and Invasive Aquatic Species], with representatives of Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. This joint adoption resulted from a project developed by MMA, which created a national effort for the control of the golden mussel in order to monitor and prevent this species expansion in Brazilian waters.



This species has already invaded rivers of the southern and middle-western Brazil. This national effort is composed by several institutions and organizations, and will suggest measures to assure the arrangement, implementation and assessment of a control plan.


Another comprehensive theme dealt by the new Government is biosafety, which in the Senate resulted in the Bill n° 153/2004, and in the Chamber of Representatives, the Bill n° 2.401/2003. These two projects establish security rules for and law enforcement mechanisms for the construction, cultivation, production, manipulation, transport, transference, importation, exportation, storage, research, commercialization, consumption, release in the environment and discarding of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Moreover, these projects aim to stimulate the scientific advance in biosafety and biotechnology, to protect life, and human, animal and plant health, and to protect the environment, according to the precautionary principle.

The Brazilian government is also finalizing a draft Bill on Access to Genetic Materials and their products, on the Protection of Associated Traditional Knowledge and on the Sharing of the Benefits Derived from their Use, which regulates the collection, access and shipment of biological and genetic material and their products, the protection and the access to the associated traditional knowledge, and sharing of the benefits derived from their use.

Another highlight was the launching of the new *Programa Nacional de Florestas – PNF* [National Forests Programme – PNF] in order to stimulate the Brazilian Forest Sector to face historical problems differently, and to reinforce Brazil's commitment to conciliate economic development and environmental conservation. This program will allow the improvement of the quality of life of people, and an ecologically sustainable, socially fair and economically viable development for Brazil. The new PNF is carried out by several governmental and civil society sectors, which compose the *Comissão Coordenadora do Programa Nacional de Florestas – CONAFLO*R [Coordinating Commission of the National Forests Programme – CONAFLO]R. This commission, established by the Decree n° 4.864/2003, aims to propose and to evaluate measures for the fulfillment of the principles and directives of the Forest Sector public policies, according to the National Policy for the Environment and the Forest Code.

The new PNF prioritizes the sustainable management, with emphasis on community management, to assure the conservation and the sustainable use of the forests. This task is conducted by the *Projeto de Apoio ao Manejo Sustentável na Amazônia - ProManejo* [Project to Support the Sustainable Management in the Amazon – ProManejo], a partnership between MMA and IBAMA, supported by the *Programa Piloto para a Proteção às Florestas Tropicais do Brasil – PPG7* [Pilot Program for the Protection of the Tropical Forests of Brazil – PPG7]. PPG7 stimulates new procedures for the sustainable use of forest resources and, simultaneously, promotes the improvement of the traditional communities' quality of life. Among the new PNF's projects, it is also important to highlight the *Projeto de Manejo Integrado de Ecossistemas e de Bacias Hidrográficas na Caatinga* [Project for Integrated Management of Ecosystems and Basins in the Caatinga]. This Project intends to minimize desertification through reforestation of critical areas identified in studies of MMA.

In December 2003, the National Biological Diversity Strategy and National Report Project of MMA promoted the “Meeting for Identification of Issues in Biodiversity for Cooperation and Interchange among the South-American Countries”. This meeting's goal was to embrace all South-american realities and perspectives on biodiversity conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits, and to identify the major advances in the implementation processes of the National Strategies of Biodiversity (NBSs) since 1998.



Moreover, this meeting identified issues of common interest related to biodiversity, which could serve as subsidies for elaboration of joint action plans for the implementation of the CBD's obligations.

These are some of the major initiatives of this government for a society committed to the conservation and sustainable use of Brazil's natural resources. This government is always concerned about including all stakeholders in decision making processes and actions. Only with the support of all the Brazilian society it will be possible to modify our environment reality and to allow Brazil to develop in harmony with the protection of its natural resources.

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Minister of the Environment of Brazil

# Presentation




Every four years, the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are obliged to submit a National Report, providing information on their progress regarding the implementation of its provisions and articles. Brazil presented its *First National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity* in 1998, with versions in both English and Portuguese (the electronic versions can be found on the internet at [www.mma.gov.br/biodiversidade/relpub.html](http://www.mma.gov.br/biodiversidade/relpub.html)).

Between 1999 and 2002, Brazil set up a National Strategy for Biodiversity in order to synthesize what is known of the country's biodiversity; identifying priority areas and actions for its conservation and sustainable use in each of the major biomes, and creating legal instruments for its protection and management. This resulted in Decree 4339, issued on August 22 of 2002, which established the principles and directives of the National Biodiversity Policy; considered to be an essential step prior to the elaboration of the *Second National Report*.

Here we present the *Second National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity*. Its contents reflect the degree of implementation of the CBD on Brazil up to December 2002. This report consists of three chapters.

The first chapter contains the answers and comments to the questionnaire of the *Guideline for National Reports*. This questionnaire, comprised of 377 questions and requests for information, was put together by the Parties to the Convention as a guideline to structure the National Reports. To answer the questions, the Ministry of the Environment organized a consultation process, submitting preliminary responses drafted by a team from the Ministry of the Environment to key people and organizations on Brazilian biodiversity in the Federal Government as well as in non-governmental sectors. In its consultation with the Federal Government, the Ministry of the Environment selected 50 programmes of the country's Pluri-annual Plan which had the strongest interfaces with the Convention on Biological Diversity. A workshop was held with representatives of these programmes on 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>





November, 2002, in Brasília, in order to discuss the answers and comments of the draft following the *Guidelines for National Reports*. A similar procedure was adopted for the non-governmental sector: 65 key NGOs were invited to contribute, 19 of which discussed the draft questionnaire at a workshop on 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November, 2002, also in Brasília.


At the same time, the Environmental Secretariats of the 26 States of the Federation, and the Federal District of Brasília, were requested to report on their main initiatives, in compliance with the articles of the CBD. Replies were received from seven of the States.

Four main sources were used to obtain information relevant to each of the questions from the key initiatives of the three sectors (Federal and State Governments and non-governmental organizations): 1) information available on the Internet; 2) information supplied directly by representatives from each of the sectors; 3) the document “Environmental Management in Brazil” – volumes 1 to 5, available at [www.mma.gov.br/pnmall](http://www.mma.gov.br/pnmall); and 4) the document “Biodiversity and Public Policies”.

For each Article of the CBD, the first two questions require an evaluation of the degree of priority given and the resources allocated to its fulfillment. Simple criteria were established in order to maintain a degree of uniformity in the replies of those consulted. The criteria for priority were based on the existence or otherwise of legislation, policies, programmes and projects – *high* when four or three were scored, *medium* when two or one, and *low* if none. The criteria for resource allocation were based on the existence or otherwise of financial, institutional and human resources, and legal and economic instruments – *good* if all four were scored, *adequate* if only three, *limited* if just two, and *very limited* if one or none.

In establishing the procedure to reply to the questions on each Article, however, the decision was taken to always answer the first two (priority given and availability of resources) last. The remaining questions were addressed beforehand so as to obtain an overall picture of the relevant initiatives undertaken, their scope and impact. Separate answers to the questions were achieved by consensus from the two groups consulted (Federal Government and non-governmental organizations). Together with the initial draft by the team from the Ministry of the Environment, this resulted in three answers to each question. These were synthesized by the Ministry of the Environment, while pointing out any major differences in opinion and any divergent perception from each group. Representatives of the non-governmental sector abstained from replying to questions concerning Articles 5, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, and some of the questions about ecosystem approach on agricultural, marine and coastal biodiversity, for insufficiency of information.

The replies resulting from this process represent, therefore, an average of differing perceptions regarding the work carried out in reference to particular Articles of the CBD. It is important to note that sometimes the answers constitute a middle ground of perceptions which are diametrically opposite and which, for this reason, fail to represent the reality of specific regions in Brazil, nor even of Brazil as a whole, being as it is a country of continental proportions, with an enormous diversity of cultures and landscapes, and huge social, political and economic disparities. Whenever possible, such divergences were indicated in comments relative to each article.



The *Second National Report* documents considerable progress in the fulfillment of the articles concerning *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation, and the sustainable use of biodiversity, especially in the Atlantic Forest and Amazon, as well as in research and training. The Amazon and the Atlantic forest have benefited greatly from measures based on an ecosystem approach.

There are a number of initiatives, involving both federal and state Governments, to regulate access to genetic resources and promote the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits originating from their use and from the traditional knowledge concerning their properties. However, compliance with Article 7 - Inventory and Monitoring of Biodiversity, is still incipient, despite the identification of 900 priority areas for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Considerable investment is still needed in dealing with issues such as: alien invasive species, public education and public awareness, the establishment of incentive measures, and in the application of the ecosystem approach.

The second chapter of this Report describes the process involved in drawing up the National Biodiversity Policy, the principles, objectives and directives of which were established in the Presidential Decree No.4339, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2002. This decree is also presented in this chapter.

The third chapter provides a synthesis of the five biome-level assessments that were carried out from 1998 to 2000. They were coordinated by academic and non-governmental organizations, and focused on the five main Brazilian biomes: Amazon, Cerrado & Pantanal, Caatinga, Atlantic Forest & *Campos Sulinos* (grasslands of southern Brazil), and Coastal and Marine Zones. An average of 200 experts from government, academia and non-governmental organizations participated in each workshop, which resulted in the identification of 900 priority areas, each with recommendations for the measures necessary for the conservation and sustainable use of their biodiversity. The assessments also resulted in a series of thematic documents, numerous thematic maps, full reports and executive summaries. The recommendations arising from these assessments are being used to establish environmental guidelines throughout Brazil.

The experts and institutions that contributed to the preparation of the *Second National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity* are listed in the annexes of the first chapter.

This report was consolidated between August and December 2002, and it was approved by the National Commission for Biodiversity – CONABIO on the 24<sup>th</sup> October 2003. CONABIO was established by the Presidential Decree N° 4703 on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2003. A preliminary version of this report was submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2002.

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