Article 17 Exchange of information

247. What is the relative priority given to the implementation of this Article and the associated decisions by your country?					
a) High		b) Medium	X	c) Low	

248. To what extent are the resources available adequate for meeting the obligations and recommendations made?							
a) Good		b) Adequate		c) Limiting	X	d) Severely limiting	

Further comments on relative priority and on availability of resources

Questions 247 and 248.

Brazil supported the structuring of a biodiversity portal ("binbr project" concluded in 2001) of the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network - IABIN, by holding a workshop in Brazil in 1999. Important sites include: IBGE (www.ibge.gov.br), MMA (www.mma.gov.br), IBAMA (www.ibama.gov.br), EMBRAPA (www.embrapa.gov.br), and INPE (www.inpe.gov.br).

The Ministry of Environment (MMA) supported a number of studies and made them available on-line: a review of the Articles of the CBD´s and their effectiveness in Brazil (10 documents – GTTS); analysis of the biodiversity strategies of 46 countries; biodiversity profiles for seven themes and general synthesis; priority areas and actions for the Brazilian biomes; thematic reports of recommendations for each article of the Convention for national biodiversity policy (10 documents); summary of the Brazilian programmes that interface with biodiversity themes; traditional knowledge and biodiversity; accommodation of Brazilian legislation for compliance with the Convention on Biological Diversity; case study of benefit-sharing, giving value to natural resources (available at: www.mma.gov.br/port/sbf/chm/relpub.html#manual) (two documents), among others. Available at www.mma.gov.br.

The mission of the *Instituto Brasileiro de Informação em Ciência e Tecnologia – IBICT* [Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology – IBICT], created in the 50´s, is to promote the development of the information sector by proposing policies, research, and divulging innovations which contribute to scientific progress and competitiveness in Brazilian technology (see: www.ibict.br).

Programa Prossiga [Prossiga Programme]. Set up in 1995, the aim of this programme is to promote the creation and use of internet information services for the priority areas of the Ministry of Science and Technology, reinforcing the presence of Brazilian scientific and technological information on the Net through increased visibility and accessibility. See www.prossiga.br.

Governo Eletrônico (e-gov) [Electronic Government (e-gov)]. The purpose of this site is to provide information and services from the Brazilian government to the society (Resolution No. 12, 14th November, 2002 of the *Comitê Executivo do Governo Eletrônico* [Executive Committee of the Electronic Government]. See www.e.gov.br.

Projeto BIOTA-FAPESP – O Programa de Pesquisas em Caracterização, Conservação e Uso Sustentável da Biodiversidade do Estado de São Paulo, [The BIOTA-FAPESP Project - Research Programme for the Characterization, Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of the State of São Paulo], *Instituto Virtual da Biodiversidade* [Virtual Biodiversity Institute]. Financed by the *Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo – FAPESP* [São Paulo State Research Support Foundation –FAPESP], this is a major initiative of the scientific community of the state of São Paulo based on the premises of the Convention on Biological Diversity. See www.biota.org.br.

Programa Sociedade da Informação [Information Society Program]. A programme of the Ministry of Science and Technology to include Brazil in the Information Society and stimulate competitiveness of the national economy in global markets. The aim is to integrate, coordinate and promote actions for information and communication of the use of technology. It was developed from a study of the *Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico – CNPq* [National Council for Scientific and Technological Development] and instituted by Decree No. 3294, 15th December, 1999. It is part of a group of projects contemplated in the Pluri-annual Plan (PPA) 2000-2003. Budget" approximately R$3.4 billion. Coordinated by the Ministry of Science and Technology. *O Livro Verde* [The Green Book] is a preliminary proposal of directives, instructions, lines of action and activities for the Programme. It suggests measures for the planning, execution and monitoring of each line of action. It was written by more than 100 specialists, from the private sector, academia and government.

The Ministry of Environment (MMA) is the focal point for the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD.

Resources are lacking for computerized databases for collections, master's dissertations and doctoral theses.

Question 249.

Sistema Brasileiro de Educação Ambiental e Práticas Sustentáveis – SIBEA [Brazilian System of Environmental Education and Sustainable Practices].

Sistema Nacional de Informação sobre o Meio Ambiente – SINIMA [National Information System for the Environment – SINIMA]. Established by Law 6.938/81, Article 9, as one of the instruments for the implementation of the *Política Nacional do Meio Ambiente - PNMA* [National Environment Policy – PNMA]. Its purpose is to institutionalise the information needed to support decisions on environmental issues, allowing for rapid acquisition and updating, increasing the availability of vital services and information. See www2.ibama.gov.br/~cnia/sinima.htm.

Sistema Brasileiro de Informação de Recursos Genéticos – SIBRARGEN [Brazilian Genetic Resources Information System – SIBRAGEN]. See www.cenargen.embrapa.br.

Sistema de Informação da Amazônia – SIAMAZ [Amazon Information System – SIAMAZ].

Programa Proteção da Amazônia (Sistema de Proteção da Amazônia - SIPAM / Sistema de Vigilância da Amazônia – SIVAM) [Amazon Protection Programme (Amazon Protection System - SIPAM / Amazon Vigilance System – SIVAM]. See comments on Article 7.

Zoneamento Ecológico-Econômico - ZEE [Ecological-Economic Zoning – ZEE]. See comments on Article 8.

Sistema de Disponibilização de Informações Geográficas Brasileiras para a Sociedade - GEOBRASIL [System for Making Brazilian Geographic Information Systems Available to Society – GEOBRASIL]. Includes journals, books, reports and a website www.infogeo.com.br.

Programa de Avaliação do Potencial Sustentável dos Recursos Vivos da Zona Econômica Exclusiva – REVIZEE [Programme for Assessing the Sustainable Potential of the Living Resources of the Exclusive Economic Zone – REVIZEE]. See comments on Article 14.

249. Has your country taken measures to facilitate the exchange of information from publicly available sources (17(1))?	
a) no measures	
b) restricted by lack of resources	
c) some measures in place	X
d) potential measures under review	
e) comprehensive measures in place	
If a developed country Party - Does not apply	
250. Do these measures take into account the special needs of developing countries (17(1))?	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	
251. If so, do these measures include all the categories of information listed in Article 17(2), including technical, scientific and socio-economic research, training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, repatriation of information and so on? Not applicable	
a) no	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) yes – significant extent	