ANNEX 1 SAMPLE COVERING LETTER

This letter represents the output of a fictitious National Biodiversity Committee attempting to survey sources of data and expertise which could contribute to the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Survey of Biodiversity Information

in support of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Why are we conducting a survey?

The Government has embarked upon the preparation of a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan to provide a framework for the conservation and sustainable use of the country's rich heritage of living resources. As one of the first steps in this process, we are attempting to survey sources of information which may be of use to policy-makers and resource managers in the public and private domains. In particular, we aim to identify key gaps in data, expertise and information management facilities which need to be addressed for improved availability of biodiversity information.

It should be stressed that the Government does not intend to use the survey results to relieve organisations of any of their data management responsibilities. Rather, the Government is attempting to help policy-makers, resource managers, researchers and the general public to gain access to information about biodiversity more easily than they have been able to before.

What benefits will this bring?

Two important products of the survey will be distributed to all of those taking part, and more widely as appropriate. These are as follows:

- Catalogue of Biodiversity Data Sources, containing details of key datasets and
 information sources relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of living
 resources. Once this is published, the Government intends to update it annually.
 The catalogue will summarise information about:
 - organisations managing biodiversity data
 - major datasets and information sources which are available (including access procedures)
 - relevant sources of expertise.
- 2. National Biodiversity Information Management Plan, detailing priority investments, efficiencies and collaborative programmes which will be implemented to enhance the management of biodiversity information.

In addition, your involvement in the survey provides an opportunity to review the current state of your information management capacity and to consider what steps, such as investments, efficiencies and partnerships, are required to enable your organisation to respond more effectively to national needs.

How will the survey be implemented?

The survey will be implemented through the use of two separate questionnaires, relating to **institutional details** and **datasets** respectively. **Only one** copy of the former should be completed per organisation (or sub-organisation as appropriate). Multiple copies of the latter may be completed, one for **each** major dataset managed by the organisation.

Will any help be available?

To help you complete the questionnaires, we have organised two half-day workshops during which we will walk you through the questions and address any difficulties you may have. If you would like to attend one of these workshops, please try to complete as much of the questionnaire as possible beforehand so that your difficulties are clearly identified. In addition to the workshops you are welcome to telephone this office at any time to discuss all aspects of the survey on 0129 228943.

When should the questionnaires be returned?

Questionnaires should be returned by September 1 1997, providing ample time for organisations to complete the forms and subject them to internal review. Remembering that this is as much your initiative as ours, we do hope that you respond both fully and quickly to the survey.

Thank you and good luck,

Chairperson

National Biodiversity Committee

ANNEX 2 SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

Comprising: Form 1: Institutional Details

Form 2: Datasets

Two separate forms are provided since most organisations have more than one, perhaps many datasets to describe, whereas institutional details need to be recorded only once.

Before using this questionnaire, the organisers of the survey may consider reviewing and adapting it to suit local conditions.

Form 1 Institutional Details

(fill in one copy of this form per organisation or sub-organisation as appropriate)

CONTACT DETAILS

Na	me of organisation:		Acronym:				
Ful	l postal address:						
Tel	Telephone number: Fax number:						
	ail:		Web-site:				
	me of host organisation(s) (if	17.7				
	ntact person:		Position:				
Tel	ephone number:		Extension:				
DE	SCRIPTION						
Wh	ich of the following best	desc	ribes your organisation (tick a	ny which apply)?		
	Governmental		Semi-governmental		Local authority		
	Private		Non-governmental		Charity		
	Profit		Non-profit				
Oth	er (please specify):						
6							
At	what levels does your or	ganis	ation operate (tick any w	hich	apply)?		
	International		National		State (or similar)		
	District (or similar)		Local		Community		
Oth	er (please specify):						

DESCRIPTION (CONT.)

What is the core business of your organisation (tick any which apply)?					
☐ Facilitation ☐ (Coordination	1 	Regulation		Administration
□ Trade □ I	Industry		Service		Consultancy
☐ Resource management		Nature con	servation		
☐ Environmental protecti	ion 🗖	Policy	L.	☐ Law	
☐ Information/monitoring	g 🗖	Research	ľ	☐ Education	on/training
□ Outreach		Lobbying	C	☐ Campai	gning
Other (please specify):					
What is the annual turnov	er of your o	organisatio	n in US\$ (o	ptionally tio	ck one)?
□ <1K □ 1–10K	□ 10–1001	K 🗆 100	OK-IM C	1M-5M	□ >5M
How many staff does your	organisatio	on employ	(tick one)?		
□ <10 □ 10-25	□ 25-50	□ 50-	-100 □	100–250	□ >250
Enter the mission statemen	nt of your o	rganisatio			
Enter the mission statement	in or your o	i gamsatio	••		
T					
Note any programmes or j	projects wh	ich may be	relevant to	this survey	:
1.					
2.					
3.					
Does your organisation have an information strategy? ☐ yes ☐ no					
Does it have a data quality policy? ☐ yes ☐ no					
Does it have a data exchan	nge policy?			□ yes	□ no

Indicate who	ether your organisation manages/uses/i formation:	needs any	of the	-
		Manages	Uses	Needs
Land use	Forestry Agriculture/livestock Fisheries Nature conservation Indigenous peoples Tourism Water Mining Energy Transport Urban planning Other (please specify)	0000000000000	0000000000000	0000000000000
Ecosystems	Forest Woodland/scrub Grassland Heathland/moorland Freshwater Coastal and marine Dryland/desert High altitude Other (please specify)	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000
Species/genes	Mammals Birds Reptiles/amphibians Fish Insects Other invertebrates Bacteria Viruses Plants (higher) Plants (lower) Germplasm/tissue Genebanks Other (please specify)		00000000000000	00000000000000

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (CONT.)

		Manages	Uses	Needs
Social/ economic/ political	Culture Health, welfare and equity Land tenure and property Demography and population Policies, plans and laws Public administration and governance Trade and industry Sustainable development Other (please specify)	0000000000	0000000000	0000000000
Physical features	Hydrology Geology Soils Topography Climate Other (please specify)	000000	000000	000000

EXPERTISE

following areas:						
	Post graduate	Graduate	Diploma	Short course	School leaver	Total
Strategic planning						
Project management						
Quality management	-			-		
Data collection/monitoring	-					
Data entry/quality assurance			1000 mm			
Data analysis					202000	
Technical writing			-		/	
Graphic design/publishing						
Communications/marketing						
Management information systems						
Geographic information systems	STREET					
Database development			-			-
Systems management						
Local area networks		IVAN		Outries.	\$	
Internet access/web-site						

EXPERTISE (CONT.)

	Post graduate	Graduate	Diploma	Short course	School leaver	Total
Public education/awareness						
Training/workshops						
Other technical assistance						
Forestry						
Agriculture/livestock						
Fisheries					-	
Nature conservation						
Indigenous peoples						
Tourism		1				
Water						
Mining						
Energy						
Transport						
Urban planning						
	:				1	Name and
Environmental protection	-			-	1	-
Environmental impact assessment	-			-		-
Environmental economics				-		
Health, welfare and equity						
Land tenure and property						
Demography and population						
Policies, plans and laws						
Public administration						
Trade and industry						
Sustainable development		-				
Ecology						
Biogeography						1.4
Conservation biology		22.000				
Taxonomy/systematics		2	Variable 1		200000	7 <u></u>
Hydrology	Name and		72.4			
Geology						
Soils						
Climate						
Other (please specify):						

EXPERTISE (CONT.)

Which areas of expertise does your organisation most need to develop?				
1.				
2.				
3.				

FACILITIES

Indicate what facilities your organisation owns or has access to (in good working order):						
Communications	Telephone Fax Email accounts Internet access points	0000	yes yes yes yes	0000	no no no	total: total: total: total:
Computers	IBM-PC 386 or lower IBM-PC 486 or higher UNIX workstation Macintosh	0000	yes yes yes yes	0000	no no no no	total: total: total: total:
Other (please specify):	e specify):					
Operating systems	DOS Windows 3.1/3.11/95/NT UNIX/Linux Macintosh Local Area Network	00000	yes yes yes yes yes	00000	no no no no	users: users: users: users: users:
Other (please specify):						
Geographic information systems	PC-ARC/INFO Workstation ARC/INFO ArcView MapInfo	0000	yes yes yes yes	0000	no no no no	users: users: users: users:
Other (please specify):						

FACILITIES (CONT.)

Database Management Systems	xBASE Access Oracle	000	yes yes yes	000	no no no	users: users: users:
Other (please specify):						
Related software	Image processing Statistical/modelling Desktop publishing Graphics/presentation	0000	yes yes yes yes	0000	no no no	users: users: users: users:
Other						
(please specify):						
Data input/output	Digitising tables Scanners Plotters Colour printers	0000	yes yes yes yes	0000	no no no no	total/size; total/size; total/size; total:
Other						
(please specify):						
Field survey	Vehicles Global positioning systems Laptop computers	000	yes yes yes	000	no no no	total: total: total:
Other						
(please specify):						
Miscellaneous	Library Photocopier In-house printing	000	yes yes yes	000	no no no	books: total:
Other						
(please specify):						
Which facilities does your organisation most need to acquire or strengthen?						
1.						
2.						

Please provide details of the m (relevant to biodiversity conse								
Network, steering group or committee	Coordinate	Facilitate	Participate	Support				
1.								
2.								
3.								
4.								
5.								
Estimate how many organisations regularly provide data or information to your organisation: Provide details of the most important of these as follows:								
Organisation Data	or information p	rovided	Formal agree	ement/MoU				
1:			□ yes	no no				
2.			☐ yes	no no				
3.			□ yes	no no				
4.			□ yes	no no				
5.			□ yes	no no				
organisation:	Estimate how many organisations regularly receive data or information from your organisation: Provide details of the most important of these as follows:							
Organisation Data	or information p	rovided	Formal agree	ement/MoU				
1.			□ yes	□ no				
2.			□ yes	□ no				
3.,			□ yes	no no				
4.			□ yes	□ no				
5			☐ yes	no no				

PARTNERSHIPS (CONT.)

Your organisation may also share other resources, for example expertise and facilities.							
Provide details of the most important of these as follows:							
Organisation Nature of cooperation	Formal agreement/MoU						
l.	□ yes □ no						
2.	□ yes □ no						
3.	□ yes □ no						
4.	□ yes □ no						
5.	□ yes □ no						
Please provide details of any partnerships which are being planned in the near future:							
Organisation	Proposed cooperation						
1.							
2.							
3.							
CONCLUSION							
How could your organisation contribute most effectively to biodiversity information network?	a						
I.							
2.							
3.							
What would you expect from such a network?							
1.							
2.							
3.							

Form 2 Datasets

(fill in one copy of this form per dataset managed by your organisation or sub-organisation as appropriate)

CONTACT DETAILS

_								
Titl	e of dataset:							
Cor	ntact person:				Position:			
Tel	ephone number:				Extension:			
DE:	SCRIPTION				<u></u>			
Sou	Source of data (tick any which apply):							
	Primary research		Acquired copy		Public domain			
Oth	er (please specify):							
If not primary research please indicate the original source(s): Form of data (tick any which apply): Hardcopy Audio-visual Electronic files Mixture								
Otti	er (please specify):							
Туј	pe of data (tick any v	whicl	n apply):					
	Books/reports		Sound recordings		Word processor files			
	Forms/notes/tables		Photographs		Spreadsheet			
	Pictures		Video/film		Database			
	Card index				GIS coverage			
	Maps				Other digital files			
Oth	er (please specify):							

DESCRIPTION (CONT.)

Geographic coverage of data (tick any which apply):							
☐ International		National		State (or similar)		District (or similar)	
□ Local		Community		Dispersed		Mixture	
Specify more exactly:							
Themselie envenees of d	lata (dale ann mhiab an	-1-5-				
Thematic coverage of d	_						
☐ Land use		Physical features	U	Social/economic/	politi	cal	
□ Ecosystems		Species		Genes		Mixture	
Specify more exactly:							
Time period of data (tio	ek an	v which apply):					
☐ Pre-history	П	Pre-1900		Post-1900		The future	
Specify exactly from:	_	F16-1900	to:	F05t-1900	_	The future	
Specify exactly from.			10.				
PURPOSE							
For what purpose was	the d	ataset originally b	uilt?	K			
1.							
2.							
3.							
Indicate any uses it has been put to subsequently:							
1.							
2.							
3.							

PURPOSE (CONT.)

Are there any uses of the data which would be unwise or improper?						
Use		Unwise	Improper			
1,						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						
Indicate the current limitations, uncertainties and errors in the data:						
Li	mitation	Uncertainty	Error			
1.						
2.						
3,						
4.						
5.						
What is the life-expectancy of the data (tick one))?					
☐ Everlasting ☐ >10 years ☐ >5 years	s 🗅 :	>1 year	6 months			
☐ Immediate future only						
DATA DEVELOPMENT						
When did the development of the dataset begin?						
Describe have the data server and death of the least of						
Describe how the data were originally obtained:						
			11			

DATA DEVELOPMENT (CONT.)

Indicate which data standards were followed, if any:						
Data standard						
1.						
2.						
3.						
Describe the main processing, interpretation and quality-assurance tasks which were later applied:						
Task applied	Processing	Interpretatio	n QA			
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.			0			
Which of the following best describes the sta	itus of the da	ta (tick one)?				
☐ Complete ☐ Nearing completion ☐ Under-development ☐ Early stages of development						
DATA MANAGEMENT						
Are the data actively managed?		□ yes	□ no			
How many people help manage the data (tick one)?						
□ None □ 1 □ 1–5 □	>5	>10				
How regularly are they updated (tick one)?						
	Every mo Every two No need	10	Every quarter Every five years			
Other (please specify):						
When were they last updated?						

ACCESS PROCEDURES

Which of the following best describes access to the data (tick one)?								
Where access is provided, which of the following applies (tick one)?								
	Free		Free to most			Free to some		
	Charged							
Where charges are made, how are these determined (optionally tick one)?								
☐ Cost recovery ☐ Cost plus overhead ☐ Market value								
Where access is provided, in what formats are the data available (tick any which apply)?								
	Hardcopy		Floppy disk		CD-	-ROM		Email
	Internet (FTP)		Magnetic tape		DA	Т		Private network
Other (please specify):								
На	s the dataset been do	cum	ented for external i	user	s?	□ yes		no no
The same section and an arrangement and the same section and secti								
Where access is provided, briefly describe the recommended access procedures:								
TH	ANKS							
Manas								
Congratulations on completing this questionnaire. Your efforts are much appreciated. Please return the questionnaire as soon as possible.								