



Food and Agriculture
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The International Treaty
ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**Views, Experiences and Best Practices as an example of possible options for
the national implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Note by the Secretary

At its [second meeting](#) of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG), the Expert Group agreed on a revised version of the [template](#) for collecting information on examples of national measures, best practices and lessons learned from the realization of Farmers' Rights

This document presents the updated information on best practices and measures of implementing Article 9 of the International Treaty submitted by Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD) - Nepal on 31 July 2019.

The submission is presented in the form and language in which it was received.



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**Template for submission of
Measures, Best Practices and Lessons Learned from the Realization of Farmers' Rights
as set out in Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Basic information

- Title of measure/practice : Community Biodiversity Register
- Date of submission: 31 July 2019
- Name(s) of country/countries in which the measure/practice is taking place: Nepal
- Responsible institution/organization (name, address, website (if applicable), e-mail address, telephone number(s) and contact person)
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Description of the examples

Mandatory information:¹

Short summary to be put in the inventory (max. 200 words) including: Traditional knowledge and skills of farmers and indigenous people can make a significant contribution to sustainable development. Empowering community and local institutions to document and use information of their traditional knowledge and biodiversity helps to foster bioprospecting and check biopiracy. Community biodiversity register (CBR) method is used by diverse types of institutions for different purposes and, consequently, methodologies for CBR have evolved into different variants.

- Implementing entity and partners: LI-BIRD, NARC, Bioversity International
- Start year: 1998
- Objective(s): The CBR addresses a range of objectives. It is basically a farmers' information database on biodiversity and traditional knowledge. It is implemented to document and monitor associated traditional knowledge and genetic resources and thereby help protecting them from biopiracy. It helps gaining a better understanding of the biological assets and values, and its use in the locality.
- **Summary of core components:** The eight steps while implementing this method includes, i) Selecting the area and community, ii) Informing the community on CBR rationale and objectives, iii) Strengthening institutional capacity, iv) Defining a specific focus and initial requirements for data collection, v) Documenting, compiling and validating CBR information, vi) Analyzing and sharing information, vii) Designing and implementing conservation and development plans and viii) Local registration and linkage with a national repository.
- **Key outcomes:** As a result of this activity, farmers have realized that a large number of local landraces are conserved by a few households and thus are highly vulnerable to genetic erosion and eventual loss. CBOs like the Agricultural Development and Conservation Society (ADCS) in Bara district of Nepal initiated a community seed bank based on the alarming information of loss of rice landrace gotten from the second documentation of CBR at the Kachorwa, village.
- Lessons learned (if applicable)
- **Brief history (including starting year), as appropriate:** For the first time, the community biodiversity register (CBR) was piloted in the global agrobiodiversity project jointly implemented by LI-BIRD, NARC and Bioversity International for documenting and monitoring biodiversity and traditional knowledge in Jumla, Kaski and Bara districts of Nepal. The Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation (MFSC), in collaboration with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN Nepal), explored ways to study and refine the CBR methodology in the context of biodiversity, in one of LI-BIRD's sites. Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) also piloted CBR in Mustang

¹ This mandatory information is required in order for the measure/practice to be included in the Inventory.



Tanahun and Sunsari districts. In 2010, LI-BIRD adapted the CBR for documenting and monitoring animal genetic resources, including fisheries and poultry.

- **Core components of the measure/practice (max 200 words):** The term 'component' may not as such applicable for this measure/practice but LI-BIRD follows eight steps while implementing community biodiversity register. It includes, i) Selecting the area and community, ii) Informing the community on CBR rationale and objectives, iii) Strengthening institutional capacity, iv) Defining a specific focus and initial requirements for data collection, v) Documenting, compiling and validating CBR information, vi) Analyzing and sharing information, vii) Designing and implementing conservation and development plans and viii) Local registration and linkage with a national repository.
- Description of the context and the history of the measure/practice is taking place (political, legal and economic framework conditions for the measure/practice) (max 200 words): LI-BIRD together with support from district level extension agencies under department of Agriculture, implemented CBR in high hills, mid hills and terai regions of Nepal in late 1990s. While implementing this practice, organization should pay attention on selecting diversity rich area where community and stakeholders recognize biodiversity as an asset for their livelihoods and ready to document and explore its potential. Another important element is to develop local resource persons for documenting biodiversity and traditional knowledge as it should be done by themselves rather than external agencies and individual doing it. A local institution is a prerequisite for leading the process at local level. While developing the format, a minimum set of data required should be discussed adequately. The documented information should be synthesized, verified and used for developing community biodiversity management plan that includes conservation and promotion of biological resources for livelihood gains.
- To which provision (s) of Article 9 of the International Treaty does this measure relate
 - Art. 9.1
 - Art. 9.2a**
 - Art. 9.2b
 - Art. 9.2c
 - Art. 9.3

Other information, if applicable

- Please indicate which category of the Inventory is most relevant for the proposed measure, and which other categories are also relevant (if any):



No.	Category	Most relevant ²	Also relevant ³
1	Recognition of local and indigenous communities', farmers' contributions to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, such as awards and recognition of custodian/guardian farmers		
2	Financial contributions to support farmers conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA such as contributions to benefit-sharing funds		
3	Approaches to encourage income-generating activities to support farmers' conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA		
4	Catalogues, registries and other forms of documentation of PGRFA and protection of traditional knowledge	√	
5	In-situ/on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA, such as social and cultural measures, community biodiversity management and conservation sites		√
6	Facilitation of farmers' access to a diversity of PGRFA through community seed banks ⁴ , seed networks and other measures improving farmers' choices of a wider diversity of PGRFA.		√
7	Participatory approaches to research on PGRFA, including characterization and evaluation, participatory plant breeding and variety selection		
8	Farmers' participation in decision-making at local, national and sub-regional, regional and international levels		
9	Training, capacity development and public awareness creation		√
10	Legal measures for the implementation of Farmers' Rights, such as legislative measures related to PGRFA.		
11	Other measures / practices		

- In case you selected 'other measures', would you like to suggest a description of this measure, e.g. as a possible new category? _____
- Objective(s)
- Target group(s) and numbers of involved and affected farmers⁵
- Location(s) and geographical outreach

² Please select only one category that is most relevant, under which the measure will be listed.

³ Please select one or several categories that may also be relevant (if applicable).

⁴ Including seed houses.

⁵ Any classification, e.g. of the types of farmer addressed, may be country-specific.



- **Resources used for implementation of the measure/practice:** It is difficult to estimate the exact amount of resources utilized for implementing a community biodiversity register as it was implemented as an activity of a project along with other activities. The amount of resources also depends on the size of the community, extent of biodiversity and information to be documented. It also very much depends on whether it is implemented as stand-alone activity or as one of the many activities. LI-BIRD has never implemented this practice as a stand-alone measure and wherever the CBR method has been implemented, a number of activities were also implemented after the CBR was prepared.
- **How has the measure/practice affected the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture?**
Once the CBR is prepared, it is used for developing community biodiversity management plan for promoting conservation and use of PGRFA. The database is used for collecting source seed for community seed banks. The rare and unique genetic resources is further multiplied and distributed as diversity kit for making it common. CBR is used as a decision making tool for promoting conservation and use of PGRFA.
- Please describe the achievements of the measure/ practice so far (including quantification) (max 200 words)
- Other national level instruments that are linked to the measure/practice: NA
- Are you aware of any other international agreements or programs that are relevant for this measure/practice? NA
- Other issues you wish to address, that have not yet been covered, to describe the measure/practice

Lessons learned

- Describe lessons learned which may be relevant for others who wish to do the same or similar measures/practices (max 250 words). The recording of information at household level can be very resource demanding and time consuming. So one CBR per community or village is the most practical and most viable. Community biodiversity register can be combined with diversity fair instead of implementing CBR as a stand-alone practice. Legal status of the CBR is important and it should be connected with exchange of PGR for research and development purposes. A digital database system can be an efficient option if the necessary resources and capacities are available. Information and data base collected using this approach should be used for further planning community based biodiversity management activity rather than limiting it in documentation and sharing.
- **What challenges encountered along the way (if applicable) (max 200 words)**
The format we used in Nepal is quite comprehensive. It means, it requires a qualified local resource person to fill it which is difficult sometime. Sometime, people give different name for same PGRFA and same name of different. If the data and information collected in the first round is not used properly, community will not be ready to do it again without a valid reason.
- **What would you consider conditions for success, if others should seek to carry out such a measure or organize such an activity? (max 100 words)**
Development of young local resource persons, collecting information using elderly people as key informants, synthesis and validation of information and use of information and data base for planning community-based biodiversity management activities linking with livelihoods. It is only sustainable



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when the community takes responsibility for the documentation and monitoring of its resources, which in turn creates direct and visible benefits for their livelihood

Further information

- Link(s) to further information about the measure/practice
 - http://www.libird.org/app/publication/view.aspx?record_id=116&origin=results&QS=QS&fl_44_17=Abishkar+Subedi&union=AND&top_parent=221
 - http://www.libird.org/app/publication/view.aspx?record_id=62&origin=results&QS=QS&sortfld_221=Date&reversesearch=true&top_parent=221