

Country Report on the implementation of
the International Treaty on Plant Genetic
Resources for Food and Agriculture
(ITPGRFA)

UNITED KINGDOM

07/12/2016

ANNEX 2

***STANDARD REPORTING FORMAT PURSUANT TO SECTION V.1 OF THE
PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONAL MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE AND
ADDRESS ISSUES OF NON-COMPLIANCE***

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Draft

Standard Voluntary Reporting Format

Introduction

1. Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body has adopted a resolution that includes, amongst others, provisions on monitoring and reporting (Resolution 2/2011). Pursuant to this Resolution, each Contracting Party is to submit to the Compliance Committee, through the Secretary, a report on the measures it has taken to implement its obligations under the Treaty in one of the six languages of the United Nations (Section V.1).
2. The first report is to be submitted within three years from the approval of this standard format. The Governing Body approved this standard format at its Fifth Session.
3. This standard format has been developed to facilitate reporting and monitoring of the implementation of the Treaty. The use of this standard format is voluntary. A Contracting Party may use another reporting format if it so wishes.

Article 4: General Obligations

1. Are there any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place in your country that implement the Treaty?

Yes

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

The UK's Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is responsible for the plant genetic resources (PGR) policy and this includes ensuring that the UK meets Plant Treaty obligations. Government support the maintenance of a number of national genebanks including: National Fruit Collection, National Vegetable Collection, Pea Genebank, Commonwealth Potato Collection and Kew. Annex 1 material distributed from these collections using SMTAs.

2. Are there any other laws, regulations, procedures or policies in place in your country that apply to plant genetic resources?

Yes

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

The Nagoya Protocol (Compliance) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/1691/introduction/made>) applies to plant genetic resources, although all Annex 1 material is out of scope.

European Community Plant Variety Rights (2100/94/EC) EU Plant Health Legislation (2000/29/EC)

3. Is there any law, regulation, procedure or policy in place in your country that needs to be adjusted / harmonized¹ to ensure conformity with the obligations as provided in the Treaty?

No

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such adjustments and any plans to make those adjustments:

Article 5: Conservation, Exploration, Collection, Characterisation, Evaluation and Documentation of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

4. Has an integrated approach to the exploration, conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) been promoted in your country?

Yes

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5. Have PGRFA been surveyed and inventoried in your country?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of your findings, specifying species, sub-species and/or varieties, including those that are of potential use:

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|---|
| <p><u>Surveys:</u> Numerous botanical surveys are undertaken in the UK each year. Although priority crop wild relatives (CWRs)/ PGRFA are not specifically targeted as part of these surveys, it is</p> |
|---|

¹ For the purpose of this report, a Contracting Party may choose whichever term (adjusted or harmonized) is appropriate in relation to their legal systems.

possible to extract data on priority genetic resources (at the species level) so that their distribution can be monitored. The National Plant Monitoring Scheme was launched in 2015, and overtime this should be able to provide an indication of annual changes in plant species abundance and diversity.

Inventories: A vegetable landrace inventory of England and Wales was undertaken in 2009 (https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwi2_pmf8d_QAhUoLcAKHR4TBFMQFggcMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.brockwell-bake.org.uk%2Fpics%2FUK_inventory.pdf&usg=AFQjCNEVJpToFuxBc5VjYw0nFppgKElCsA&sig2=BKvkqwPGJ5LWJtDver_I3Q)

A detailed analysis of CWR on the Lizard peninsular was undertaken in 2013.

If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

- Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;
- Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;
- The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried:

6. Has any threat to PGRFA in your country been identified?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;
- The sources (causes) of these threats;
- Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;
- Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps:

PGRFA are vulnerable to the same threats as broader biodiversity (habitat fragmentation, agricultural intensification, climate change, etc). Additionally, certain groups of genetic resources like landraces are often highly geographically concentrated, and this increases their vulnerability to threats. Steps taken in the UK to minimise threats to biodiversity include:

- Measures introduced through the EU Common Agricultural Policy to incentivise environmental management on farms.
- A network of protected sites that are required to be managed sensitively. All of these designations are underpinned by EU &/or domestic legislation.
- Catchment Sensitive Farming Scheme which provides free advice to farmers on environmental management and pollution reduction

7. Has the collection of PGRFA and relevant associated information on those plant genetic resources that are under threat or are of potential use been promoted in your country?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

The Scottish Landrace Protection Scheme (SLPS; http://www.scottishlandraces.org.uk/scottish_landrace_protection_scheme.htm) run by Scottish Government aims to provide a safety net for the continued use of landraces by storing seed produced by each grower each year. The project focusses on 5 landraces (Bere Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), Small Oat (*Avena strigosa*), Rye (*Secale cereale*), Shetland Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*), 'Scots' Timothy (*Phleum pratense*), and the seed is stored for emergency regeneration, monitoring, re-supply to the donor, characterisation and general distribution for research, breeding and education. The scheme also provides information to growers on germination, disease management and husbandry.

Additionally, a PhD focussed on CWRs on the Lizard peninsula, UK, was completed in 2015. This work included the development of CWR inventories, gap analyses, assessment of CWR habitat preferences, and made recommendations for conserving CWR in the UK.

8. Have farmers and local communities' efforts to manage and conserve PGRFA on-farm been promoted or supported in your country?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

Farmers efforts have been supported and promoted locally through the Scottish Landrace Protection Scheme (detailed in response to question 7), although this is the only scheme of its kind that operates in the UK. Additionally, farmers are supported to conserve PGRFA indirectly through environmental management measures that are incentivised through CAP agri-environment schemes.

9. Has *in situ* conservation of wild crop relatives and wild plants for food production been promoted in your country?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether any measures have been taken to:

Yes - Promote *in situ* conservation in protected areas;

~~Support the efforts of indigenous and local communities.~~

If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

A project is currently underway on the Lizard National Nature Reserve (protected area), to incorporate active management of priority CWRs in to the management plan for this site. The approach may be applied to more sites in the future.

More commonly CWR and wild food plants are conserved indirectly through measures that are aimed at supporting wider biodiversity, e.g. agri-environment support through the CAP, protected sites designations and associated restrictions.

10. Are there any *ex situ* collections of PGRFA in your country?

Yes



If your answer is 'yes', please provide information on the holder and content of such collections:

National Fruit Collection (apple, pear, plum, apricot, cherry, bush fruit, cobnut)

<http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/>;

UK Vegetable Collection (Allium (onion, leek, etc), Brassica (Brussels sprout, broccoli, cauliflower, etc.), Daucus (carrot), Raphanus (radish), Lactuca (lettuce) and minor vegetables (celery, spinach, endive, cress, etc.) <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/wcc/gru/>;

Pea Collection <https://www.jic.ac.uk/research/natures-factories/our-science/peas/>;

Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (7 million specimens) <http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/collections>

Millennium Seed Bank

The collection holds population samples from the majority of UK native seed-bearing species <http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/collections/millennium-seed-bank>

Cereals Collection

<https://www.jic.ac.uk/germplasm/Cereal%20Collections%20Public%20GRU.html>;

Commonwealth Potato Collection <http://www.hutton.ac.uk/about/facilities/commonwealth-potato-collection>

International Cocoa Quarantine Centre, Reading

<http://www.icgd.reading.ac.uk/quarantine.php>

Heritage Seed Library conserve vegetable varieties that are not widely available

<https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/hsl>

European Arabidopsis Stock Centre <http://arabidopsis.info/>

Miscanthus & National Willow Collection <http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/perennial-biomass-crops>

Rubus and Ribes Germplasm Collections <http://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/facilities/rubus-and-ribes-germplasm-collections>

Temperate forage and amenity grasses and clover, at Aberystwyth University

11. Has the development of an efficient and sustainable system of *ex situ* conservation of PGRFA been promoted in your country?

Yes



If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the measures taken to promote *ex situ* conservation, in particular any measures to promote the development and transfer of technologies for this purpose:

UK Government supports the maintenance of the majority of the genebanks listed in question 10. The National Fruit Collection, Vegetable Collection and Pea collection are all supported directly by Defra and these genebanks are managed in line with FAO genebank standards. A number of the other collections receive Government support as part of National Capability Grants which recognise the strategic importance of a number of scientific institutes and the collections that they maintain.

The UK is a member of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/>) and is participating on the European Genebank Integrated System (<http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/aegis/about-aegis/>).

12. Has the maintenance of the viability, degree of variation, and the genetic integrity of *ex situ* collections of PGRFA been monitored in your country?

Yes



If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the main conclusions of these monitoring activities:

The National Fruit Collection, UK Vegetable Collection and the Pea Collection are directly supported by Defra. These collections are required to manage their accessions in-line with FAO best practice guidelines.

13. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation or documentation of PGRFA?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the other Contracting Parties with whom the cooperation was undertaken (where additional to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms) and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grant scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. The initiative funds projects that help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the following biodiversity conventions:

- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

An example of a current project that helps with the implementation of the Plant Treaty is the “Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives” project that focuses on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Previous projects include conservation of yams in Madagascar through cultivation, and mutually supportive implementation of the Plant Treaty and Nagoya in Madagascar and Benin. Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/>.

The UK is an active member of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) which is aimed at ensuring the long-term conservation and facilitating the increased utilisation of plant genetic resources in Europe.

Article 6: Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

14. Are there any policy and legal measures² in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such policy and legal measures include:

- Yes Pursuing fair agricultural policies that promote the development and maintenance of diverse farming systems that enhance the sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity and other natural resources;
- Yes Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;

² For the purpose of this report, legal measures may include regulations.

- Yes ☐ Promoting plant breeding efforts, with the participation of farmers, that strengthen the capacity to develop varieties particularly adapted to social, economic and ecological conditions, including in marginal areas;
- ☐ ~~Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;~~
- Yes ☐ Promoting the expanded use of local and locally adapted crops, varieties and underutilised species;
- ☐ ~~Supporting the wider use of diversity of varieties and species in on-farm management, conservation and sustainable use of crops and creating strong links to plant breeding and agricultural development;~~
- Yes ☐ Reviewing and adjusting breeding strategies and regulations concerning variety release and seed distribution.

If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

Agri-environment schemes support environmentally sensitive practices that promote the maintenance of more diverse farming systems.

The Scottish Landrace Protection Scheme (detailed in question 7 response) promotes the use of locally adapted crops.

The Organic Research Council (ORC) plant breeding programme focusses on increasing genetic diversity to produce crops that are more resilient to variations in climate and weather conditions; to weed, pest and disease pressures; and to other challenges. ORC have been working on wheat since 2001/02, and they have bred ORC Wakelyns Population by making 190 crosses among 20 different parent varieties and mixing all the resulting seed. Until relatively recently it was not possible to market such populations because they do not conform to EU law which currently ensures monocultural uniformity. However, in March 2014 the EU law was changed (as a result of this research) to allow a trial period for marketing 'varieties' (populations) that do not fit the normal rules and regulations.

Article 7: National Commitments and International Cooperation

15. Has the conservation, exploration, collection, characterization, evaluation, documentation and sustainable use of PGRFA been integrated into your country's agriculture and rural development programmes and policies?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities into the agriculture and rural development programmes and policies:

UK agricultural policy is dominated by the Common Agricultural Policy. The Rural Development Policy established under the Common Agricultural Policy provides for conservation of rare breeds and plant genetic resources (PGR). PGR conservation is mainly achieved as an indirect consequence of biodiversity conservation. Exploration, collection, characterisation and evaluation of PGRFA are not covered in this policy.

The contracts for the management of the three genebanks that Defra supports directly all include documentation and characterisation of accessions.

Conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA has been integrated in to national policies, such as England's Biodiversity Strategy (Defra, 2011).

16. Has your country cooperated with other Contracting Parties, through bilateral or regional channels, in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes



If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the aim of such cooperation is to:

Yes Strengthen the capability of developing countries and countries with economies in transition with respect to conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

Yes Enhance international activities to promote conservation, evaluation, documentation, genetic enhancement, plant breeding, seed multiplication, and sharing, providing access to and exchanging PGRFA and appropriate information and technology, in conformity with the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing under the Treaty.

If, in addition to cooperation through the Governing Body or other Treaty mechanisms, your country has cooperated with other Contracting Parties directly or through FAO and other relevant international organizations, please indicate such other Contracting Parties and, where possible, details of any relevant projects:

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grant scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. The initiative funds projects that help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the following biodiversity conventions:

- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

An example of a current project that helps with the implementation of the Plant Treaty is the "Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives" project that focuses on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Previous projects include conservation of yams in Madagascar through cultivation, and mutually supportive implementation of the Plant Treaty and Nagoya in

Madagascar and Benin. Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/>.

The UK is an active member of the European Cooperative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) which is aimed at ensuring the long-term conservation of plant genetic resources in Europe and facilitating the increased utilisation of these accessions.

Article 8: Technical Assistance

17. Has your country promoted the provision of technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grant scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. The initiative funds projects that help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the following biodiversity conventions:

- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

An example of a current project that helps with the implementation of the Plant Treaty is the “Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives” project that focuses on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Previous projects include conservation of yams in Madagascar through cultivation, and mutually supportive implementation of the Plant Treaty and Nagoya in Madagascar and Benin. Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/>.

18. Has your country received technical assistance with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the Treaty?

No

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such technical assistance:

Article 9: Farmers' Rights

19. Subject to national law, as appropriate, have any measures been taken to protect and promote farmers rights in your country?

No ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

- ☐ Recognition of the enormous contribution that local and indigenous communities and farmers of all regions of the world have made and will continue to make for the conservation and development of plant genetic resources;
- ☐ The protection of traditional knowledge relevant to PGRFA;
- ☐ The right to equitably participate in sharing benefits arising from the utilisation of PGRFA;
- ☐ The right to participate in making decisions, at the national level, on matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;
- ☐ Any rights that farmers have to save, use, exchange, and sell farm-saved seed / propagating material.

If such measures were taken, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

Article 11: Coverage of the Multilateral System

20. Has your country included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS) all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain?

All ☐

If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

None

If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

- The extent to which Annex I PGRFA have been included in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS; and
- The difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

If your answer is 'none', please provide details of the difficulties encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex I PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

- The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex I PGRFA in the MLS;
- The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and
- Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

The curators of the genebanks that Government directly supports are in regular contact with academics and breeders, and they seek out accessions from these groups if they think that they would be valuable additions to the collections (this includes non-Annex 1 accessions).

Additionally, the UK PGR group meets biannually. The group comprises of academics, genebank curators, NGOs, plant breeders and industry representatives, and although increasing the amount of Annex 1 material in the MLS is not discussed specifically, the Plant Treaty is a regular item on the agenda and this raises its profile with key user groups.

If your answer is 'no' please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:

Article 12: Facilitated access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Multilateral System

22. Has your country taken measures to provide facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such measures:

Government directly supports the maintenance of a number of genebanks (including the National Fruit Collection, National Vegetable Collection and Pea Collection) and access to material in these genebanks is provided in accordance with Article 12.4.

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA:

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex I PGRFA pursuant to the standard material transfer agreement (SMTA)?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please provide the number of SMTAs entered into:

National Fruit Collection - 73
UK Vegetable Collection - 203
John Innes Centre Genetic Resources Unit - 768
Commonwealth Potato Collection - 86

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA pursuant to the SMTA:

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex I PGRFA?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate the number of such SMTAs entered into:

National Fruit Collection - 57
UK Vegetable Collection - 54

25. Does the legal system of your country provide an opportunity for parties to material transfer agreements (MTAs) to seek recourse in case of contractual disputes arising under such agreements?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

The procedures for resolving a contractual dispute such as may occur under the SMTA are dependent on a number of factors. The default method of resolving large commercial disputes in England and Wales is by way of High Court litigation. The litigation process is governed by the Civil Procedure Rules as well as guides that apply to specialist courts (such as the Chancery Court Guide).

The rules on enforcement of an arbitral award in England and Wales are set out in the Arbitration Act 1996 and under common law. The process for enforcement applicable in any particular case is dependent upon the seat of arbitration and the arbitration rules that apply.

The process is different in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

26. Does the legal system of your country provide for the enforcement of arbitral decisions related to disputes arising under the SMTA?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the relevant laws, regulations or procedures:

The procedures for resolving a contractual dispute such as may occur under the SMTA are dependent on a number of factors. The default method of resolving large commercial disputes in England and Wales is by way of High Court litigation. The litigation process is governed by the Civil Procedure Rules as well as guides that apply to specialist courts (such as the Chancery Court Guide).

The rules on enforcement of an arbitral award in England and Wales are set out in the Arbitration Act 1996 and under common law. The process for enforcement applicable in any particular case is dependent upon the seat of arbitration and the arbitration rules that apply.

The process is different in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

27. Have there been any emergency disaster situations in respect of which your country has provided facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

No

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex I PGRFA to which access was provided:

Article 13: Benefit-sharing in the Multilateral System

28. Has your country made any information available regarding Annex I PGRFA?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex I PGRFA (e.g. catalogues and inventories, information on technologies, results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation):

Information is available through EURISCO (ECPGR genetic resources catalogue). The John Innes Centre Genetic Resources Unit has developed an online information management system and user orientated searchable database (<https://www.seedstor.ac.uk/index.php>). This database includes available characterisation information and enables users to search for accessions by trait. Additionally, the National Fruit Collection database is available electronically and this includes characterisation information and photographs where they are available (<http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/full2.php?id=5533&&fruit=apple>).

29. Has your country provided or facilitated access to technologies for the conservation, characterisation, evaluation and use of Annex I PGRFA?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether your country:

Yes Has established or participated in crop-based thematic groups on utilisation of PGRFA;

Yes Is aware of any partnerships in your country in research and development and in commercial joint ventures relating to the material received through the MLS, human resource development and effective access to research facilities.

If access to technologies was provided, please provide details of the access provided:

The UK is a member of the European Co-operative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources, and facilitating the utilisation of plant genetic resources in Europe is one of the objectives of this group. UK academics chair a number of the crop specific working groups.

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex I PGRFA?³

³ Please note that this question differs from question 15 as it only concerns Annex I PGRFA and is more specific.

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:

Yes Establishing and/or strengthening programmes for scientific and technical education and training in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;

☐ ~~Developing and strengthening facilities for conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA;~~

Yes Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

If your country provided for and/or benefitted from such measures, please provide details:

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grant scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. Further information on this project is given in response to question 13.

Examples of relevant projects funded through the initiative include:

Plant conservation and sustained utilisation training in Southern Africa

(<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/3192/>)

Conservation and sustainable utilisation of the plant genetic resources of Mexico and Central America (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/3021/>)

Crop genetic resources of Central America (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/4146/>)

Plant biodiversity conservation in Eastern Europe

(<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/5008/>)

Plant biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilisation training in West Africa

(<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/6100/>)

Article 14: Global Plan of Action

31. Has your country promoted the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture?

Yes ☐

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:

☐ National actions;

If the implementation of the plan was promoted, please provide details:

The UK is taking a number of measures to implement the GPA and contribute toward the priority activities, these include:

- supporting environmentally sensitive farming practices through agri-environment schemes, which benefit wider biodiversity and PGR indirectly.
- supporting the maintenance of ex-situ collections, including Kew Gardens which plays a key role in raising public awareness of the importance of genetic resources
- Supporting characterisation of priority genetic resources through the genebank management contracts, and supporting plant breeding through research projects such as the Genetic Improvement Networks (<http://www.wgin.org.uk/>)
- Running the Darwin Initiative grant scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide (with a specific focus on the Plant Treaty and a number of other MEAs).

Article 15: Ex Situ Collections of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held by the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and other International Institutions

32. Has facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to the International Agricultural Research Centres of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (IARCs) or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

No



If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions facilitated access was provided;
- The number of SMTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

Access is available but it has not been requested.

33. Has access to non-Annex I PGRFA been provided in your country to IARCs or other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty?

No

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If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- To which IARCs or other international institutions access was provided;
- The number of MTAs entered into with each IARC or other international institution:

If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex I PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty:

Access is available but it is has not been requested.

Article 16: International Plant Genetic Resources Networks

34. Has your country undertaken any activities to encourage government, private, non-governmental, research, breeding and other institutions to participate in the international plant genetic resources networks?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

Through the UK Plant Genetic Resources Group we promote ECPGR, and a number of academics and genebank curators actively participate in the sector specific crop groups.

Article 18: Financial Resources

35. Has your country provided ~~and/or received~~ financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty through bilateral, regional or multilateral channels?

Yes

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If your answer is 'yes', , where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved:

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grant scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. The initiative funds projects

that help countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the following biodiversity conventions:

- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)
- the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing
- the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

An example of a current project that helps with the implementation of the Plant Treaty is the “Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives” project that focuses on both in-situ and ex-situ conservation. Previous projects include conservation of yams in Madagascar through cultivation, and mutually supportive implementation of the Plant Treaty and Nagoya in Madagascar and Benin.

36. Has your country provided financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Yes



If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such national activities and the amount of the financial resources involved:

The UK government supports the maintenance of a number of genebank collections, including: National Fruit Collection, UK Vegetable Collection, Pea and Cereal Collections at the John Innes Centre, Kew, and the Commonwealth Potato Collection. Additionally, farmers are supported to conserve PGRFA indirectly through environmental management measures that are incentivised through CAP agri-environmental schemes. Furthermore, Upright goosefoot (*Chenopodium urbicum*) is a CWR that is facing extinction in the UK, and a project has been set up to reintroduce this species to a number of sites.

About this reporting format

37. Have you encountered any difficulties in completing this reporting format?

Yes



If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

The online report system is very temperamental. It often freezes and this prevented me from updating earlier responses. The pane on the left side of the screen indicated "some questions

left unanswered" even when I had completed all the questions in a section, and this made monitoring progress very difficult.

Completing the form online was very time consuming due to the issues raised above, and I was not able to complete our submission online.

If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

General remarks on the implementation of the ITPGRFA

38. You may use this box to share any advice you may have arising from your country's experience with implementation of the Treaty:

39. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of difficulties in implementation of the Treaty:

40. You may use this box to share any additional information that may be useful to provide a broader perspective of measures that could help to promote compliance:

