

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

Eswatini

1 May 2019

FIRST COUNTRY REPORT ON COMPLIANCE - ITPGRFA

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Country: **Eswatini**

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Standard Voluntary Reporting Format

Article 4: General Obligations

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

- No. The Kingdom of Eswatini currently does not have any laws, regulations procedures or policies in place that implement the Treaty or that are in line with the Treaty.

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:

1.1.1. The Food Security Policy

The Food Security Policy recognizes that Swaziland's resource base (crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry) is threatened by challenges like desertification, deforestation, overgrazing, loss of biodiversity and climate change, It thus recognizes and stresses the importance of sustainable and diversified patterns of agricultural production (GOS, 2005).

1.1.2. The National Forest Policy

The National Policy Forest has among its three objectives some objectives that are relevant to this report i.e.:

- To improve the forest productivity, and ensure sustainable supply of multiple forest products and services by maintaining the forest areas. To conserve the biodiversity of the forest resources, encourage its sustainable use and ensure that benefits accrued are shared equitably. To enhance the national capacity to manage and develop the forestry sector in collaboration with other stakeholders (GOS, 2002). The National Forest Policy is one of a few, if not the only National Policy that directly addresses traditional knowledge systems related to biodiversity and natural resource management.

1.1.3 The Swaziland Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan

The Swaziland Poverty Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (PRSAP) recognizes the importance of environmental protection and gender equity in poverty reduction and sustainable development. It underlines the threat that continued loss of biodiversity and degradation of land resources poses to the livelihoods of the poor and as such elaborates a range of strategies for conservation as well as involvement of the rural poor in conservation initiatives (Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland, 2007).

1.1.4 EMA 2002, Provides for and promotes the enhancement, protection and conservation of the environment and where appropriate, the sustainable management of natural resources.

1.1.5 Plant Control Act 1981, to provides for the control, movement and growing of plants and matters incidental thereto

1.1.6 Access and Benefit Sharing Administrative guidelines (Draft) 2016: Provide simple arrangements and procedures as well as measures for accessing biological resources and traditional knowledge associated with biological resources of Eswatini, their products and derivatives for scientific research, commercial and any other purposes connected therewith and to ensure equitable sharing of benefits accruing therefrom. This is in line with the Nagoya Protocol, which Eswatini is Party to.

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?

- Yes

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

- **Seed Act (2000):** This Act needs to be reviewed so that it also recognizes farmers varieties instead of focusing on just hybrids only.
- **Plant Breeders' Rights and Farmers' Rights legislation(s):** There is currently no Breeders' or Farmers' Rights legislation(s) in the country even though efforts to draft the former were initiated some years back. Hence there is a need to draft a single all-encompassing legislation that will recognize both the rights of breeders without compromising the role that farmers play and will continue to play towards agriculture in general as well as food and nutrition security through continued seed conservation and exchange.

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.

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

- Yes.

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:

- Yes, but not totality. Instead, only a brief inventory of crop diversity exhibited in local and regional agricultural exhibition shows was conducted on the level of crop diversity still conserved and utilized by farmers on-farm .

If your answer is 'no', please indicate:

- Any difficulties encountered in surveying or inventorying PGRFA;
 - Transport is the major challenge that limits the NPGRC from conducting regular inventories of PGRFA in all parts of the country as a means of monitoring the extent to which PGRFA diversity is affected during seasons of drought and flooding or even during large-scale agricultural development projects implementation.
- Any action plans to survey and inventory PGRFA;
 - Yes, there are plans underway to survey and inventory PGRFA in order to monitor trends in their conservation and sustainable use, including how crop diversity is affected by climate change especially during drought years. However, due to resource (transport and human resource capacity) limitations, the process will initially target crops diversity exhibited in local and regional agricultural shows because it is simpler and cheaper to gather information during such agricultural gatherings.
- The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed and inventoried:
 - Since a comprehensive survey and inventory of PGRFA in Eswatini has not yet been fully conducted, it is important that such a survey and/or inventory of all PGRFA be conducted. This will help establish a baseline of the current status of PGRFA diversity, and thus enable monitoring and evaluation of future trends on local diversity of PGRFA in order to enhance future reporting. Particular attention needs to be paid to PGRFA that are not yet well represented in the Genebank including crop wild relatives and wild plants.

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

- Yes, even though on a small scale since there has been no full scale survey and inventory has been undertaken yet.

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate:

- The species, subspecies and/or varieties subject to such threats;

- Almost all germplasm that has been abandoned by farmers are threatened owing to a number of reasons or threats depending on the region where the germplasm is most preferred or well adapted. These include Cucurbits, Sorghum, groundnuts, and more importantly jugobeans (*Vigna subterranea*)

The sources (causes) of these threats;

- Threats include:

- a. Policies that promotes the introduction of improved varieties,
- b. Smuggling of GMOs from neighbouring countries by farmers along the borders;
- c. Climate change particularly in drought prone areas.
- d. Large-scale (sugarcane) agricultural development projects and uncoordinated human settlements in prime agricultural lands.
- e. Low multiplication ratio in case of jugo beans which result in the loss of original seed which was planted with the aim of increasing the limited seed quantities.
- f. Soil acidity which in the case of groundnuts results in production and harvesting of empty pods and possibly the loss of seed samples.
- g. Prolonged flooding or extremely wet summer seasons results in high incidence of fruit flies which induce rotting and eventual loss of fruits and seed in the case of Curcubits especially pumpkins (*C. maxima*)
- h. Quelling birds which have resulted in loss of sub-species most preferred by birds
- i. Prolonged or continuous Power (electricity) failure which results in loss of germplasm in *ex situ* cold storage.

Any steps taken to minimise or eliminate these threats;

- Germplasm collections and conservation (Genebank)
- Distribution of Conserved PGRFA
- Promotion of establishment of On-farm community seed banks and Restoration / re-introduction of PGRFA
- Documentation of IK associated with PGRFA
- Climate smart agricultural practises

There is also a need to:

- Regenerate or multiply challenging germplasm in localities with favourable climatic and/environmental conditions, and or under controlled conditions (Greenhouse).
- Correct soil pH / acidity.
- Birds scaring

Any difficulties encountered in implementing such steps:

- Transport challenges for germplasm collection expeditions
- Limited storage facilities and germplasm processing equipment (Aluminium foil bags and sealers, and Cold room facility)
- In-adequate human resource
- Financial resource limitations to enable procurement of Power supply backup (generator) and inputs for regeneration of germplasm with low viability.

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

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

- The National Plant Genetic Resources Centre (NPGRC) has conducted collection missions of PGRFA threatened by agricultural development projects that earmarked the expansion of

sugarcane cultivation in the country. This is done in order to protect them from extinction due to the shifts from diversified cropping systems to monocrops and the high usage of herbicides under in sugarcane.

- Morphological characterization and evaluation for some (20%) sorghum germplasm and its potential for tolerance or preference to birds is on-going. Analysis of nutritional composition (such as Tannin content) is also planned on the same in the near future (resources permitting) in order to promote the use of germplasm adapted to drought and birds mostly in drought prone areas.
- On-station maize characterization is also on-going.
- On-farm participatory characterization and selection of 25 accessions (each) of maize, sorghum, beans and cowpea is being conducted in collaboration with COSPE, a local NGO.

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

- Yes.

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

- Formation of community seed groups (banks) and exchange of germplasm among farmers as well as with the NPGRC have been promoted and supported in some communities in the Lubombo and Shiselweni regions of Eswatini. Seed fairs were once conducted but discontinued due to financial and transport resource limitations.
- Awareness raising efforts have been made to farmers and other stakeholders through participation in Agricultural shows (local, regional and national).

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

- No. Not yet, as the focus all along has been on cultivated crops even though some wild vegetable plants harvested from the wild, and widely cooked and consumed by the elderly people especially those with diabetes (e.g. *Aloe vanbalenii* and *Momordica*) has been promoted.
- Although *in situ* conservation in protected areas is not yet promoted, species such as *Aloe vanbalenii* and other wild fruit in protected areas are protected, unlike is the case with species outside protected areas.

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

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:

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:

a. Swaziland National Plant Genetic Resources Centre holds the country's *ex situ* collection.

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:

- The NPGRC is in fact actively engaged in promoting both on-farm and ex-situ conservation. For example, the establishment of community seed banks in at least all the four regions of the country is promoted. Farmers and farmers groups are also encouraged to exchange crop diversity among themselves as well as with the National Plant Genebank for ex-situ storage (in cold storage and in field Genebank).

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 but not as regularly as it should be, unfortunately

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

- Some accessions have viability below the one recommended for storage.
- Viability for major collections: Maize and beans above 85%
- Sorghum and cowpea: Only 65% of the collections are above 85% whilst the remainder has around 62% viability.
- There is a need for regular regeneration of sorghum and cowpea due to poor storage conditions aggravated by frequent and prolonged power failures and lack backup standby generator.

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

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 Kingdom of Eswatini has cooperated as a regional block with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states under the SADC PGR Network coordinated by the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre on promoting conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Through SPGRC, SADC member states including Contracting Parties have been trained on and encouraged to use the Global Information System (GLIS) of reporting so that PGRFA information from all over the world can be easily exchanged and tracked through the use digital object identifiers.

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?

- No. There are no legal measures available currently. Hence, here is an urgent need for such as current agricultural policies work against environmental legislations which also do not clearly spell out the protection of PGRFA. Hence, most agricultural development projects or policies have thus far negatively affected biodiversity conservation including PGRFA.

The Seed Act (2000) also currently recognizes hybrid varieties, and not informal seed systems yet these are also very valuable especially for self-pollinated crop species.

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

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;

Strengthening research that enhances and conserves biological diversity by maximizing intra- and inter-specific variation for the benefit of farmers;

- Not yet.

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;

- Currently none in place.

Broadening the genetic base of crops and increasing the range of genetic diversity available to farmers;

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;

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:

- There are currently no policies that prioritize biodiversity conservation unfortunately. It is hoped that the National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA which will be hopefully be developed by mid-2019 (June/ July) will highlight and prioritize the development of policies or legislations that protects and also positively contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA activities or programmes.

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, partly because a National Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Programme was established in the country though not through any form of a Policy or legally as yet.

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

- A National Plant Genetic Resources Conservation Centre (NPGRC) was established in 1989. Moreover, posts for staffing the NPGRC were created even although still very few currently, and hence the need for more staff.in order to enhance implementation of PGRFA activities and improve timely reporting to the Treaty Secretariat.
- Otherwise, there are efforts to implement the National Plant Genetic Resources Programme which entail embarked on germplasm collection, on-farm conservation (community seed banking), characterization and multiplication, participatory evaluation and selection of germplasm for adaptability and farmer preference as well as document all relevant information.
- Also, the Kingdom of Eswatini is Party to the Treaty on PGRFA since 2013 even though it has not yet been domesticated, (IK), awareness raising on PGRFA, seed fairs (diversity fairs)..

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:

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

- The aim of the regional cooperation is to promote conservation and sustainable use of PGR (including PGRFA and crop wild relatives) as well as seed multiplication, characterization, and

information documentation and exchange. This has been done through the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre, a regional programme comprising 14 SADC member countries. 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:

- Not yet.

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?

- Not yet as Eswatini is also still a developing country, and as such is also in need of technical assistance for in order to fully implement the Treaty, including domestication of the Treaty and/or development of legislations relevant to PGRFA, and in line with the Implementation of the Treaty.

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

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

- Yes,

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

- A regional FAO TCP coordinated by SPGRC is currently being implemented since December 2018 towards the development of a National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA and Strengthening of on-farm conservation of PGRFA.

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?

- Not yet, even though the country has already developed Administrative Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Guidelines which provides for the protection of all genetic resources. Otherwise, the Eswatini still need to develop a farmers' rights legislation that will fully address issues for farmers' rights in relation to PGRFA.

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 above-mentioned guidelines cover all genetic resources and is therefore not necessarily specific 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:

- The lack of a legislative framework or plan for PGRFA is the main limiting factor in protecting and promoting Farmers' rights and the farming systems they have always used in conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

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?

- None
- The crops that have been included in the MLS; and
N/A
- 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:

- No PGRFA have been included in the MLS yet as conserved PGRFA collections have not yet fully characterized due to financial resource challenges. There is also no PGRFA legislation that clearly spell out how PGRFA have to be managed and/or exchanged especially because the Treaty has not yet been domesticated.

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?

- Not yet
- There are currently no known other natural or legal persons that who hold Annex 1 PGRFA that we have no access to as the NPGRC endeavours to collect and conserve all PGRFA available from anyone or institution in the country. However, other researchers are also encouraged to deposit and/or inform the NPGRC about new they receive from CGIARs and other institutions for documentation purposes.

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; Not yet. The crops that have been included in the MLS by these persons; and
- N/A
- Any difficulties these persons encountered in including Annex I PGRFA in the MLS:
- N/A

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:

- Specifically, the NPGRC has not included Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS as most of the conserved PGRFA has not been fully characterized.

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?

- No.

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

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

- Efforts to submit a funding application to the Benefit Sharing Fund under the Fourth Call for Concept Notes were made but unfortunately unsuccessful. Such an application or measure was meant to provide an opportunity to fully characterize the germplasm conserved in order to

generate and document relevant data that could enhance the utilization of PGRFA conserved in the country. This would also help enable easy and safe tracking of material that has been exchanged globally under the MLS.

- The main challenge or difficulty emanates from the fact that the PGRFA held in the country has not yet been characterized, and thus cannot be exchanged before it is fully characterized. This is because it would be difficult to track the exchanged germplasm if exchanged before characterized. Moreover, the country still does not have a legislation that safeguard PGRFA and or/ its safe exchange, and is thus in search of funding to develop a legal framework or legislation that will be in line with the ITPGRFA. Hence the current lack of funding has unfortunately delayed this process.

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

- Not yet.

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

N/A

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

- PGRFA held in the country has not yet been characterized, and thus cannot be exchanged before it is fully characterized. This is because it would be difficult to track the exchanged germplasm if exchanged before characterized. Moreover, the country still does not have a legislation that safeguard PGRFA and or/ its safe exchange, and is thus in search of funding to develop a legal framework or legislation that will be in line with the ITPGRFA. Hence the current lack of funding has unfortunately delayed this process.

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

- Not yet

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

N/A

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? Not yet as there is no legal system in the country that is in line with the Treaty pending the domestication of the ITPGRFA.

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

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

- Not yet.

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

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?

- Not yet.

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?

Not yet. However, there is currently some on-going maize and sorghum characterization, which will hopefully partially provide some useful information on potential of germplasm conserved in the country.

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):

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

Not yet.

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

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

- N/A

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

- N/A

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

- Not yet.

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether such measures were related to:
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;
Carrying out scientific research and developing capacity for such research.

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

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?

Not yet.

If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:
National actions;
International cooperation;

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

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:

- However, some collectors from CGIARs have in the past, way back in 1989 (prior to the establishment of the National Genebank) conducted collection missions of both cultivated and wild crop relatives in Eswatini, and some of the germplasm collected were deposited in Millennium Seed Bank at Kew as well as in Zimbabwe.

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?

- Not in recent years.

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:

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

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

- Such has been accomplished through SADC member countries by the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre and Network.

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

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

- Eswatini has recently benefited some small funding through the SPGRC network for strengthening national capacities on PGR conservation including the development of National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA.

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:

- Funds have been provided only to a very limited extent particularly in the form of inputs and staff salaries. Otherwise there are still some financial and human resource capacity challenges not only to the National Genebank but to the entire parent Department of Agricultural Research and Specialist Services.

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 reporting format is quite extensive and elaborate and hence requires a lot of time to complete.

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

- A Word Version of this questionnaire would most appropriate and user friendly.

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:

- The lack of PGRFA pro-policies which could enable allocation of specific budget towards implementation of PGRFA activities or programmes remain a major limiting factor which constrain the prioritization of PGRFA and biodiversity conservation programmes.

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:

- The country still needs to domesticate the Treaty and develop relevant legislative frameworks that will promote and prioritize PGRFA conservation as well allocation of budget and other resources.