



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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

UNITED KINGDOM

(29 April 2021)



ONLINE REPORTING SYSTEM

Second Report on Compliance of ITPGRFA

Online Reporting System on Compliance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Pursuant to Article 21 of the Treaty, the Governing Body approved, at its Fourth Session, the Compliance Procedures that include, among others, provisions on monitoring and reporting: Resolution 2/2011.

According to the Compliance Procedures, 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. This Online Reporting System facilitates the submission of such information in electronic format.

Should you need any additional information regarding the reporting on compliance or the use of the online system, please visit the Treaty's Website or contact the Secretariat at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org.

Additional Reporting Information

Name and contact of the reporting officer

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Institution(s) of affiliation

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Article 4: General Obligations

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

1A. 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 in England and this includes ensuring that the UK meets Plant Treaty obligations. UK Government supports 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 are distributed from these collections using SMTAs under the MLS.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

2A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such laws, regulations, procedures or policies:

>>> Genetic resources in general are covered by UK Access and Benefit Sharing Regulations which comprise: Nagoya Protocol (Compliance) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 2015/821) as amended by Nagoya Protocol (Compliance) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1393) and the Environment and Wildlife (Legislative Functions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (S.I. 2019/473); which implement retained legislation, namely Regulation (EU) No. 511/2014 and Regulation (EU) 2015/1866.

The utilisation of plant genetic resources that is undertaken in accordance with the ITPGRFA is generally considered to be out of scope of the above UK ABS regulations. Where the species is contained within Annex 1 of the Treaty and is utilised for the purposes of food and agriculture.

Commission Directive 2008/62/EC seeks to ensure sustainable use of plant genetic resources and limit genetic erosion. The directive provides certain derogations regarding the listing and marketing of conservation varieties, These derogations were adopted into Scottish legislation via:

- The Vegetable Seeds Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2010
- The Beet Seed (Scotland) (No. 2) Regulations 2010
- The Seeds (National Lists of Varieties) (Amendments) Regulations 2009
- The Seed (Scotland) (Amendments for Conservation Varieties) Regulations 2009, which amended:
 - The Cereal Seed (Scotland) Regulations 2005
 - The Oil And Fibre Plant Seed (Scotland) Regulations 2004
 - The Fodder Plant Seed (Scotland) Regulations 2005

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

3A. 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?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

5A. 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.

>>> Surveys: Numerous botanical surveys are undertaken in the UK each year.

Annual cropping survey of 30,000 commercial farms in the UK.

Survey of landraces of the Scottish Western and Northern Island chains in 2018 by Liv Shoemark.

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme was launched in 2015, and over time this should be able to provide an indication of annual changes in plant species abundance and diversity.

An in-situ crop wild relative (CWR) gap analysis formed part of the inventory/survey work undertaken by Hannah Fielder in 2014.

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

Inventories: The UK National Plant Inventory lists all accessions found in UK genebanks, and additional information - such as characterisation data - can often be found on institutional databases.

The UK national inventory of priority crop wild relatives was developed in 2014 and contains 148 taxa (126 species and 22 subspecies; see full inventory at the Plant Genetic Resources Diversity Gateway, <http://pgrdiversity.bioversityinternational.org>).

A vegetable landrace inventory of England and Wales was undertaken in 2009

5B. 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?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

6A. 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 are often highly

geographically concentrated, and this increases their vulnerability to threats. This is true for landraces which were identified by Maxted et al. as the most threatened component of UK PGRFA. There are about 240 known landraces across the UK and all them are seriously threatened. Evidence from the Scottish islands indicates a 31% extinction of landraces over the last 15 years (Shoemark and Maxted Pers. Comm.).

Steps taken in the UK to minimise threats to biodiversity include:

- A network of protected sites that are required to be managed sensitively. All of these designations are underpinned by 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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

7A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken:

>>> The Scottish Landrace Protection Scheme (SLPS; <https://www.sasa.gov.uk/variety-testing/scottish-landraces/scottish-landrace-protection-scheme-slps>) 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 SLPS holds collections for six Scottish landraces:

1. (Bere Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*))
2. Small Oat (*Avena strigosa*)
3. Hebridean Rye (*Secale cereale*)
4. Shetland Cabbage (*Brassica oleracea*),
5. Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.)
6. Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.)

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.

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.

The visitor centre of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership carries out educational outreach activities and has given hundreds of thousands of the visiting public, including school groups, an opportunity to learn more on the project and the importance of conservation of PGRFA.

The genetic resources unit (GRU) at the John Innes Centre which houses the UK's pea collection has participated in various outreach events. At a regional event ran by the Royal Norfolk Agriculture Association in 2019, the GRU presented an exhibition stand to thousands of school children, their parents, teachers and the regional community. The importance of plant conservation for future food security was the key message. They also took part in the 2019 Norwich Science Festival, a 9-day festival with exhibitions, shows and hands-on science activities for all ages. The GRU chose, grew and supplied plants and seeds to demonstrate to the public what the organisation does.

Brogdale, the site which houses our living national fruit collection (NFC), is open to the public and highlights to the visitors the importance of the NFC.

In 2020, the UK's vegetable genebank celebrated its 40 year anniversary with a week of science, sharing and celebrations at the website <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/lifesci/wcc/gru/genebank/40th>. Visitors could hear talks from research scientists, take a virtual tour of the genebank and follow the journey of seeds from Wellesbourne to Svalbard. Plus, there was a live, virtual conference, which was open to all.

In the private sector, The Eden Project attracts millions of visitors per year and promotes the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

8A. 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. The UK is no longer a member of the EU and is therefore developing environmental land management schemes which will replace the CAP.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

9A. 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

9B. If such measures have been taken, please provide details of the measures taken:

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

The protected site system is a key mechanism for taking action to reverse the loss of biodiversity in the UK. Protected areas cover many of the most valuable sites for biodiversity in the UK, and an in-situ gap analysis of priority CWRs showed that these species are well represented in the current protected sites network. 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. We aim to continue that support in any CAP replacement schemes.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

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

>>> National Fruit Collection <http://www.nationalfruitcollection.org.uk/>;

UK Vegetable Collection <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/scienceconservation/collections>

Millennium Seed Bank <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/commonwealthpotato-collection>

International Cocoa Quarantine Centre, Reading <http://www.icgd.reading.ac.uk/quarantine.php>

Heritage Seed Library <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/hsl>

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

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

Rubus and Ribes Germplasm Collections <http://www.hutton.ac.uk/research/facilities/rubusand-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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

11A. 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 monitoring in your country?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

12A. 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. UKVGB has an objective to organise a 'black box' security storage to safely maintain security duplicated under long term storage conditions (-20c). Safety duplication is an essential part of their collection management.

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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

13A. 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 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.

“Bridging agriculture and environment: Southern African crop-wild-relative regional network” project which supports food security and poverty reduction in Southern Africa improving the management of crop-wild relatives. Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here <https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project-search/>. 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 measures in place in your country that promote the sustainable use of PGRFA

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

14A. 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;
 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
 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

14B. If such policy and legal measures are in place, please provide details of the measures taken and any difficulties encountered in implementing them:

>>> PGRFA policy in the UK is driven by several overarching commitments such as the ITPGRFA, CBD, and EU Biodiversity 2020.

The UK is currently drafting the Nature Strategy 2030 expected to be published in Spring 2022 which will include a chapter on genetic resources with commitments for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. Defra directly supports the National Fruit Collection, the UK Vegetable Collection and the John Innes Centre Pea Collection; other crop genebanks receive indirect support from Defra through research councils
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.

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 programmes and policies?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

15A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the integration of such activities:

- Conservation
 Exploration
 Collection
 Characterization
 Evaluation
 Documentation
 Sustainable Use

Please indicate into which type of programmes and policies:

- Agriculture and rural development
 Food security
 Biodiversity conservation
 Climate change
 Other

Additional details:

>>> PGRFA policy in the UK has been driven by several overarching commitments such as the ITPGRFA, CBD, and EU Biodiversity 2020 during this reporting period, we do not have a specific PGRFA strategy in the UK, however this is currently being drafted as part of the wider Nature Strategy 2030.

Defra directly supports the National Fruit Collection, the UK Vegetable Collection and the Pea Collection. The contracts for the management of the three genebanks all include documentation and characterisation of accessions. Other crop genebanks receive indirect support from Defra through research councils.

Conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA has been integrated into national policies, such as England's Biodiversity Strategy (Defra, 2011). We are also currently drafting the new UK Nature Strategy 2030 which will include a chapter on the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

16A. 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
 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

16B. 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 "Bridging agriculture and environment: Southern African crop-wild-relative regional network" project which supports food security and poverty reduction in Southern Africa improving the management of crop-wild relatives.

Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here

<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project-search/>.

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.

The Millennium Seed Bank has sent a significant number of accessions for regeneration which were collected in the Fertile Crescent as part of the ongoing 'Crop Wild Relatives project' to ICARDA (International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas) in Beirut, Lebanon. Fertile Crescent forms an arc from the Nile delta to the head of the Arabian Gulf.

The GRU at the John Innes Centre recently entered into a collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences to obtain resequencing information for ~700 accessions from the JI Pisum collection. Together we aim to generate a world leading resource for gene discovery and forward breeding in pea.

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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Not applicable

17A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of the measures taken

- Exchange of information
 Access to and transfer of technology
 Capacity building

Please explain:

>>> 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 “Bridging agriculture and environment: Southern African crop-wild-relative regional network” project which supports food security and poverty reduction in Southern Africa improving the management of crop-wild relatives.

Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here

<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project-search/>.

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 Not applicable

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

- Exchange of information
 Access to and transfer of technology
 Capacity building

Please explain:

>>>

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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No

19 A. 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 benefit 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

19B. 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 notified all PGRFA listed in Annex I to the Treaty that are under the management and control of your Government and in the public domain as included in the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing (MLS)?

Please select only one option

- All
 Partially
 None

20A. If your answer is 'all', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>> None

20B. If your answer is 'partially', please provide details of:

The extent to which Annex 1 PGRFA have been included in the MLS

The crops that have been included in the MLS; and

The difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>>

20C. If your answer is 'none', please provide details of the difficulties encountered in including Annex 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

- Lack of guidelines for the identification and inclusion of material;
 There is no national genebank;
 Lack of catalogue of PGRFA in the country;
 Lack of specialised human resources;
 Limited economic resources and the need for capacity building;

Other, please explain:

>>>

21. Has your country taken measures to encourage natural and legal persons within your jurisdiction who hold Annex 1 PGRFA to include those resources in the MLS?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

21A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of:

The natural or legal persons within your jurisdiction that included Annex 1 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 1 PGRFA in the MLS:

>>> The curators of the Government supported genebanks 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.

21B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details, in particular details of any difficulties encountered in encouraging these persons to include Annex 1 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 1 PGRFA, in accordance with the conditions set out in Article 12.4 of the Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

22A. 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.

22B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA:

>>>

23. Has facilitated access been provided in your country to Annex 1 PGRFA using the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA)?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

23B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA using the SMTA:

>>>

24. Has the SMTA been used voluntarily in your country to provide access to non-Annex 1 PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No
 No, but the issue is under consideration

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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

25A. 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 several 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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

26A. 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 several 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 1 PGRFA for the purpose of contributing to the re-establishment of agricultural systems?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

27A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such emergency disaster situations and the Annex 1 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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

28A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of any information made available regarding Annex 1 PGRFA:

- Catalogues and inventories
 Information on technologies
 Results of scientific and socio-economic research, including characterisation, evaluation and utilisation
 Other

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

29A. 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.

Please provide details:

>>> The UK is a member of the European Co-operative Programme for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR) 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 1 PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

30A. 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.

30B. 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.

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?

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

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

31A. If your answer is 'yes', please indicate whether the implementation of the plan was promoted through:

- National actions
 International cooperation
 Other actions

Please provide details:

>>> The UK is taking several 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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

32A. 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:
>>> Access is available but it has not been requested.

32B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing facilitated access to Annex 1 PGRFA to IARCs and other international institutions that have signed agreements with the Governing Body of the Treaty

>>>

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?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

33A. 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:
>>> Access is available but it has not been requested.

33B. If your answer is 'no', please provide details of any difficulties encountered in providing access to non-Annex 1 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?

Please select only one option

Yes

No

34A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details of such activities:

>>> Through the UK PGR 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 financial resources for national activities for the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

35A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide the estimated amount of funds provided during the last five years, including government resources:

>>>

35B. Please indicate if your country has developed a strategy or other measures to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources to implement the International Treaty:

>>> 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 “Bridging agriculture and environment: Southern African crop-wild-relative regional network” project which supports food security and poverty reduction in Southern Africa improving the management of crop-wild relatives.

Further details on projects supported through the Darwin Initiative can be found here

<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project-search/>.

36. Has your country provided financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

36A. If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years::

>>> The UK government supports the maintenance of several 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 currently still incentivised through CAP agri-environmental schemes and in future will be supported by environmental land management schemes.

36B Channel:

- Bilateral
 Regional
 Multilateral

36C. Please provide details:

>>>

37. Has your country received financial resources for the implementation of the International Treaty?

Please select only one option

- Yes
 No

37A. If your answer is 'yes', where possible, please provide details of such channels and the amount of the financial resources involved during the last 5 years:

>>>

37B. Channel:

- Bilateral
 Regional
 Multilateral

37C. Please provide details:

>>>

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:

>>>

About this reporting

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

Please select only one option

Yes

No

41A. If your answer is 'yes', please provide details on such difficulties:

>>>

41B. If you have suggestions for improvement of this reporting format, please share them:

>>>