



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**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)

ZIMBABWE

(28 March 2023)



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

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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 National Strategy and Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is in place which was approved in 2022. The Strategy is the primary framework to guide the full domestication of the Treaty.

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Zimbabwe National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA](#) - Google drive link to Zimbabwe's National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA 2022-2032 pdf

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[S.I. 61 of 2009 EMA.pdf](#) - Statutory Instrument 61 of 2009: Environmental Management (Access to Genetic Resources and Indigenous Genetic Resource-based Knowledge) Regulations 2009

[EMA ACT.pdf](#) - Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27]

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

>>> Environmental Management Act [Chapter 20:27] which was enacted in 2002 provides for the sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment; the prevention of pollution and environmental degradation; the preparation of a National Environmental Plan and other plans for the management and protection of the environment. The Act also provides for the regulation of access and benefit sharing for genetic resources under Statutory instrument 61 of 2009: (Access to Genetic Resources and Indigenous Genetic Resource-based Knowledge). Statutory instrument 61 regulates access and benefit sharing of all genetic resources including PGRFA not covered by the Treaty. The Statutory Instrument is yet to be fully aligned to the Nagoya protocol. The Statutory Instrument establishes the Genetic Resources Committee and the National Focal Point for the Treaty is a member.

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:

>>> Zimbabwe is moving towards development of a stand alone legislation that addresses conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA including the fair and equitable sharing of benefits of their use. However there are already existing pieces of legislation that may need to be revised such as the Environmental Management Act in particular Statutory Instrument 61 of 2009 so that it recognizes the special needs for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in tandem with the ITPGRFA. The country is has developed the National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA (2022-2032) which is expected to guide the processes towards full domestication of the ITPGRFA.

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.

>>>

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

>>> The major challenges include the lack of coordination of PGRFA conservation efforts by the many players within the sector and the lack of a national PGRFA inventory system that recognizes PGRFA conservation. The current inventory system for PGRFA is limited and only addresses agronomic aspects of crop production. There is very limited capacity with respect to human resources and skills to carryout comprehensive inventory for PGRFA that also covers crop wild relatives and wild food plants.

Surveying and Inventorying of PGRFA has recently been identified as a critical priority area in the recently developed National Strategy and Action Plan. The most important PGRFA that should be surveyed include indigenous crop landraces of cowpea, sorghum, finger millet, pearl millet, bambara groundnut and several traditional vegetables. The other PGRFA of high priority are wild edible plants, wild fruits and crop wild relatives.

The surveys are expected to targeted key food crops which include maize (*Zea mays*), beans, cowpeas (*Vigna unguiculata*), bambara nut (*Vigna subterranea*), groundnut (*Arachis hypogea*), sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), pearl millet (*Pennisetum glaucum*), finger millet (*Eleusine coracana*) among the others.

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;

>>> There are several threats that have been identified but have not been fully verified in respect to their nature and extent of impacts on PGRFA. Increased frequency of cyclones for example the tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019 and in Cyclone Dineo in 2017 has been happening and resulted in devastating effects on PGRFA and agricultural production. The increased prevalence of drought in the past three decades including the most historic and severe ones, which were experienced in 1986/7, 1991/2 and 2001/2 is also another major threat. During these drought years a lot of PGRFA was lost through complete crop failure which compounded seed scarcity resulting in widespread food insecurity and in certain cases farmers convert conserved onfarm seed to food grain (to an extent that no seed was available for planting in the next season).

Veld fires are also another threat mostly experienced during the dry season, when all the harvest is stored in granaries. However, the risk of burning granaries is high and PGRFA is at risk. The other threat is infrastructural development. Zimbabwe is a developing country and there are several developmental works happening, like opening up of new mines, roads, construction of dams, etc. This is happening on farming areas which are very rich in PGRFA and a lot of PGRFA is lost.

Earthquakes and landslides, Zimbabwe being a country on earth, it is not immune to these catastrophes, although Zimbabwe has never experienced these natural disasters with big magnitude there is risk of PGRFA loss through these extremities.

The effects and extent of threats have not been investigated however it is envisaged that they are causing wide spread destruction of ecosystems including agricultural lands, loss of indigenous crop varieties of most crops, wild fruits and crop wild relatives.

There is increasing recognition by the scientific community in the country to focus research efforts towards this area and establish knowledge and understanding especially on the impact of threats such as climate change, tropical cyclones, mining, and veld fires among others on PGRFA and the environment.

Furthermore, following devastating effects of the tropical Cyclone, which hit several parts of the country, a Disaster response strategy for PGRFA, was developed to address PGRFA assessment and restoration post disasters. There has also been increased recognition for the need to incorporate PGRFA disaster response in the National Disaster Response management policies and frameworks.

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:

>>> There is limited promotion for the collection of PGRFA under threat. However, after the devastating Tropical cyclone Idai which hit Zimbabwe in 2019 there has been a strong drive towards establishing systems to safeguard PGRFA in disaster prone areas. Community seedbanks have been promoted as a strategy to collect and safeguard local PGRFA materials in disaster prone areas among other interventions. The National Strategy for PGRFA clearly articulates and establishes national plans to rescue and restore PGRFA in disaster prone areas and also incorporation of PGRFA in national early warning systems.

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:

>>> There are widespread efforts that promote farmer's activities towards management and conservation of PGRFA on-farm. There is active promotion of several strategies driven by government, civil society and other development agencies.

The government through the National Genebank and the Department responsible for agricultural extension actively support farmers through training on promoting best practices for management of PGRFA onfarm. The government has supported the development of markets for PGRFA various products, which helps to provide incentives for their continued production. The major programmes that have been promoted included the Climate Proofed Presidential Input Scheme that incorporates the conservation agriculture approach and promotion of PGRFA. This involves agro ecological tailoring where specific PGRFA crops are promoted in well adapted and suited areas following the most favourable climatic conditions for example the promotion of sorghum and millets in most of the dry areas.

NGOs and development partners are strongly supporting farmers with training and support for establishing Community seedbanks, seed fairs and farmer field schools. These interventions have seen farmers actively conserving and utilizing PGRFA including neglected and underutilized species.

There are still outstanding challenges, which include lack of an enabling policy and legal environment for the recognition of farmer's varieties and sustainable farmer centred seed supply systems for local PGRFA in particular the neglected and underutilised species. Technological limitations to production in particular lack of post-harvest and processing machinery still exist. The production of some of the PGRFA is labour intensive hence eventually become marginalised. There is also a lack of a framework that guides operation of community seed banks and other existing interventions.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> The National Genebank under the Department of Research and Specialist Services holds an ex-situ collection of 6333 accessions. The collection includes local landraces of sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, cowpea, bambara nut, bean, maize, water melon, cow melon, indigenous vegetables and a few wild relatives.

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:

>>> The national genebank working with non governmental organisations to establish linkages between community seedbanks and the national genebank and also making efforts to duplicate germplasm at the SADC regional genebank which in turn duplicates at the Svalbard Seed Vault. The system is being strengthened and maintained although it has challenges of funding for seed multiplication to generate sufficient seed quantities for duplicating collections and also to regenerate and characterize the genebank collections. Technology transfer is still lagging behind however there is potential for collaborations with other institutions in the SADC region and beyond on molecular characterization for evaluation of germplasm and tissue culture for vegetatively propagated PGRFA such as sweet potato.

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

>>> Genetic variation studies based on morphological descriptors have been conducted on maize, finger millet, bambara nut, cowpea, sorghum, water melon and other crops. Results have shown that there is generally high degree of variation within the genebank collection. However, the proportion of germplasm that have been studied is still quite small (less than 30%) of the total collection. Further valuable information can be generated as a result of advanced molecular analysis using modern genomic tools but this has not been done due to limitations in technical and human capacity.

Monitoring for viability is done regularly for germplasm targeted for repatriation and distribution to users and recorded results show low levels of viability (less than 60%) for most oil seed and pulse crops indicating an urgent need for regeneration. The cereals have maintained moderate to high levels of viability (up to 80%).

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:

>>> Zimbabwe partnered with Mozambique and Malawi in the implementation of the project titled Foundations for Rebuilding Local Systems Post Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi from the year 2019 to 2022. The project mainly focused on mobilising genebank germplasm from the countries' genebanks for repatriation to the areas that were hit by the Tropical Cyclone Idai in the three countries. The project was coordinated by the ITPGRFA secretariat with funding from the Government of Germany. Several hundreds of accessions were mobilized and distributed to farmers in affected areas of the three countries after rapid assessments were conducted.

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

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[national agriculture policy framework draft final 29 Nov 2018 \(1\).pdf](#) - Draft National Agricultural Policy Framework for Zimbabwe

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Zimbabwe National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA 2022-2032](#) - Google drive link to the Zimbabwe Strategy for PGRFA (pdf) 2022-2032

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

>>> At present we have the draft National Agricultural Policy Framework in Place. Within this policy there is Pillar number 8 on Resilient Sustainable Agriculture which promotes the adoption of ecosystem friendly and diversified production practices for resilient and sustainable food production. A gap still exists for a more explicit policy that addresses elements of Article 6 on sustainable use. There are a number of supporting strategic action plans addressing various aspects on sustainable use and other elements in the agricultural sector with the main being the Agricultural Food Systems Transformation Strategy which focuses on transformation of agriculture and foods systems hinged on diversification, sustainable production practices and resilience. The government is also developing crop value chain specific strategies to promoting production and the commercialisation of previously neglected crops such as Tradition grains (sorghum and millets) through the Traditional Grains Strategy and various legume crops (cowpea, groundnut, beans and sunflower) through the Legume Commercialisation Strategy. These strategies are expected to promote research into improved varieties and strengthening of the value chains. In addition, there is a processes towards development of an overarching Agro-biodiversity policy that comprehensively addresses all elements of the Treaty including Article 6. So far Zimbabwe has developed the National Strategy and Action Plan for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Strategy which was developed through a stakeholder driven process provides a clear road map for establishing measures that implement Article 6. The major setback is that the strategy does not have a specific budget for its full operationalization.

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:

>>>

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 contracting parties are Mozambique and Malawi through a project titled Foundations for rebuilding Seed Systems Post the Tropical Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. This was coordinated by the ITPGRFA Secretariat and funded by the German government from 2019 to 2022 over 3 phases. The projects main objectives were to establish the extent of the impact of the Tropical Cyclone on local seed systems and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the district. This would be followed immediately by short term PGRFA and local seed systems recovery interventions as informed by the impact assessment in the affected areas. The project also aimed to strengthen coordination mechanisms and structures for emergency response at national and local level through development of strategies and stakeholder involvement. The strategic involvement of the ITPGRFA secretariat was key in mobilising resources specifically for PGRFA emergency response and the technical support to implementing partners. The involvement of the ITPGRFA secretariat also became a strategic opportunity to strengthen the capacity of the participating countries to implement the Treaty and a result this encourage Mozambique to become a party to the Treaty at the end of the project. The ITPGRFA secretariat also fostered strategic collaborations with other partners such as the Alliance for Bioversity International and CIAT whose expertise is strongly centered on PGRFA conservation and strengthening seed systems.

Zambia and Malawi: Through a Benefit Sharing sharing Funded project titled: Policies and practices to facilitate the implementation of developed Strategic Action Plans for Plant Genetic Resources conservation and use for the improvement of food and 5nutrition security under changing climatic conditions.

Starting date 2016/02

Ending date 2020/02

Lead Organisation: Community Technology Development Trust

Project Description

This project targeted to contribute to the improvement of food and nutrition security of 30,000 rural households in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe by improving the management of the diversity of sorghum, millet, cowpea, and pigeon peas and to further develop and promote the growing of diverse crop varieties of these crops which are suited to the changing climate in this region. Improvement in the management of PGR entailed involvement of the farmers, national gene banks, researchers and civil society to create a network of actors from collection to storage in the community seed banks and national gene banks, to research narrowing down to variety improvement through participatory plant breeding and to increased utilization of PGR ultimately leading to production of crops and varieties that are most suited to the vagaries of climate change. The project addressed the national policy and legislative issues that could impede sustainable improvement, management and utilization of PGR.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> Zimbabwe has received technical assistance from Developed countries through a number of projects covering several areas on PGRFA management. The Technical assistance programmes are listed below:

1. SADC Crop Wild Relatives Project -Darwin Initiative (September 2019 to December 2020)

Zimbabwe received technical assistance on developing a program for the conservation of Crop Wild Relatives. This is being achieved with support from the Darwin Initiative and the SADC Crop Wild Relatives Projects coordinated by the SADC Plant Genetic Resources Centre in partnership with Bioversity International and Birmingham University. The project involves identifying the crop wild relatives that occur in Zimbabwe and development of a national checklist followed by mapping their spatial occurrence in the country. Currently, a draft checklist has been developed, which is at the review stage. The support is ongoing until the mapping of CWRs hotspots in the country followed by implementation of conservation measures.

2. Foundations for Rebuilding Seed Systems Post Cyclone Idai in Zimbabwe Mozambique and Malawi

The Foundation for Re-Building Local Seed Systems Post Cyclone Idai is a regional project which was implemented in Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Malawi. The project is funded by the government of German through the FAO-ITPGRFA secretariat, for the period September 2019 to December 2022. The three countries will conduct rapid assessments of the loss of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture caused by the devastating effects of cyclone Idai, and develop comprehensive reports highlighting the key local seed systems restoration action plans and policy recommendations. Over and above the activities of assessing and restoring plant genetic resources in Cyclone Idai affected areas, the project also sought to develop national disaster response strategies which streamline issues of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, such as restoring germplasm and rebuilding and strengthening local seed systems in the event of other natural disasters.

The project involved technical assistance and capacity building for implementation of the ITPGRFA through sponsoring delegates to participate in Governing Body Meetings of the ITPGRFA. Support was also received through various training workshops on the ITPGRFA, farmers rights and ITPGRFA compliance. The project also supports countries through implementing innovative interventions for strengthening local seed systems with support from Bioversity International. Bioversity International supported participating countries through training and implementing the Resilient Seed Systems Toolbox, climate analogues studies among other activities.

3. FAO Technical Cooperation Project: SPGRC/FAO TCP 3601: Development of National Capacities for Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2018-2019)

Zimbabwe along with Angola, Kingdom of Eswatini and Namibia participated in a Technical Cooperation Project funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations. The TCP project supported participating countries through developing national capacities for conservation of PGRFA. The project was implemented from September 2018 to December 2019. Zimbabwe successfully developed a national strategy and action plan for PGRFA with technical and financial support from the project. Furthermore the project supported the characterization and evaluation genebank germplasm as well strengthening the coordination of

PGRFA conservation and sustainable utilization in the country.

4. Technical Assistance received through participating in training workshops

I. Technical Capacity Enhancement and exchange program between Sweden and Zimbabwe; Molecular characterization Training through a Research fellowship from 7 June to 10th December 2014 Swedish University of Agricultural Science- Exchange program between SLU and DR and SS

II. 2. Two officers from Zimbabwe participated in the training on GLIS, which was held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 12-14 December 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to strengthen national capacities on plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

III. One officer participated in the Africa Regional Training on Conservation and Sustainable Use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights held in Dakar, Senegal from the 29th of July to August 1, 2019. The regional training was organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty, with the support of the FAO Sub Regional Office for West Africa and hosted by the Government of Senegal. The objective of the regional training was to provide information on, and to enhance both individual and institutional capacities to implement activities aimed at, conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights. It was also a forum for exploring new ideas and to identification of areas and opportunities to promote the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and Farmers' Rights in the context of national plans and programmes on food security and sustainable agriculture and other relevant sectoral programmes. This regional training also provided an opportunity for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned in the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and implementation of Farmers' Rights, with a view to advance in the assessment of existing capacities, activities and of the current needs.

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:

>>> Zimbabwe in partnerships with development partners and local NGOs has actively promoted the establishment of Community Seed Banks as a key entity supporting and strengthening farmer seed systems and local seed supply to contribute towards resilience and sustainable agriculture. At present there are over 20 community seedbanks located in different areas of the country supporting the saving, exchange and use local indigenous germplasm and to some extent include the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices.

Some of the measures include promotion of activities that support the conservation and sustainable utilization of local germplasm such as seed fairs, food fairs and participatory variety selection through the farmer field school approach.

Government has adopted this programmes as measures that continue to promote and foster Farmers Rights however there is still need establish such policy measures through clear and specific legislative and policy measures.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> There is need to fully document electronically the National germplasm collection before it can be made public. There are efforts in place to completely digitize all the information on the conserved germplasm including development of germplasm catalogues through a number funded projects. There is also need to develop standard operating procedures to guide Genebank officers on management of the PGRFA information and data while also guiding users on how to access germplasm from the National Genebank in Zimbabwe.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> There is still very low awareness on the importance of contributing materials to the MLS therefore more needs to be done to sensitize the public especially those running community seedbanks which carry significant numbers of germplasm on Annex 1.

Germplasm stored in the many community seedbanks found in the country needs to be properly documented before any process of inclusion can be initiated and this requires financial resources human and skill capacities to train the holders on documentation or alternatively have genebank staff to carryout the documentation. Also some of the seedbanks are located remotely and are not very accessible.

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:

>>> Zimbabwe has promoted and ensures facilitated access of all germplasm found in the National Genebank using the SMTA. There is however a need to develop proper standard operating procedures to guide Genebank officers in facilitating access to germplasm in particular non Annex 1 material. Zimbabwe is yet to develop legislative measures that regulate and guide the operations of the National Genebank and establish it as the National Authority for facilitating access to PGRFA.

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:

>>> Where the issue involves contravention of terms and conditions of materials transfer agreements, Statutory Instrument 61 of 2009 under the Environmental Management Act Chapter 20:27 applies, additionally there is also the Consumer Contract Act Chapter 8:03 which applies to all contracts that were entered into after the year 1994.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> After the Tropical Cyclone Idai in 2019 that hit several parts of the country including Chimanimani District among others. The Genebank mobilised several accessions of PGRFA for the purpose of restoration and repatriation of lost materials.

The Zimbabwe Genebank continues to avail PGRFA materials in the event other disasters especially following droughts which seriously deplete local germplasm sources.

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:

>>>

30. Has your country provided for and/or benefitted from capacity building measures in respect of Annex 1 PGRFA?

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

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:

>>> Funding for 2 projects and the 3rd Benefit Sharing Fund Cycle (1 project was at National level and the other was regional level)

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

CFP3-Full_project_proposal-Community Technology Development Trust-Zimbabwe (1).docx - Benefit Sharing Funded Project CTDO

CFP3-Full_project_proposal_format_final.doc - Benefit Sharing Funded Project: Practical Action

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 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:

>>> Zimbabwe has the 10 year National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA (2022-2032) in place which addresses all the areas of the Global plan of Action. The National Genebank is in place to coordinate the implementation of the strategy.

Before the strategy was in place some aspects of the Global action were implemented under the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020)

You have attached the following Web links/URLs to this answer.

[Zimbabwe National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA 2022-2032](#) - Google drive link to the Zimbabwe Strategy for PGRFA (pdf) 2022-2032

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:

>>> 1 SMTA with CIMMYT
1 SMTA with ICRISAT

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:

>>>

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:

>>> There are internal bureaucratic processes that take long for papers to be approved and there is still no clear system for review and approval of the MTA or provision of access. Existing legislation that is in place which is Statutory Instrument 61 on Access to Genetic Resources (under the Environmental Management Act) which would apply for non annex 1 PGRFA does not have a clear supporting institutional and administrative framework for its implementation. Therefore, requests are received and are not processed.

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:

>>>

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:

>>> Approximately 100 000 USD has been provided by Zimbabwe and this also includes government resources. Other funds from donors (FAO, and others) reach up to 350 000 USD over the past 5 years

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 National Strategy and Action Plan outlines a resources mobilization strategy that involves a variety of mechanisms to fund PGRFA conservation and sustainable use.

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 Government mobilises through Treasury at least approximately 30000USD annual to meet the running costs and other programs implemented by the National Genebank which is main Institution whose mandate implements the ITPGRFA.

36B Channel:

- Bilateral
 Regional
 Multilateral

36C. Please provide details:

>>> Government contribution to project funds from the Benefit Sharing funded projects and other state resources

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:

>>> 240000USD from the Government of Germany through the ITPGRFA Secretariat for PGRFA emergency Recovery after tropical Cyclone Idai 1 300 000 USD from the Third Benefit Sharing Funded Projects targeting various aspects of the ITPGRFA

37B. Channel:

- Bilateral
 Regional
 Multilateral

37C. Please provide details:

>>> Two projects were funded by the Benefit Sharing fund which were led by non governmental organisations which are Community Technology Development Organisation (2015-2019) and Practical Action (2015-2018).

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:

>>> Zimbabwe has made significant efforts towards implementation of the key provisions of the ITPGRFA especially article 5 and article 6 on conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA respectively. The country has seen various players in the civil society sector playing a pivotal role on capacitation of farmers to conserve and sustainably utilize PGRFA. Current interventions have made an impact in improving resilience to various environmental and socioeconomic challenges being faced by marginalized small holder farmers. The Government of Zimbabwe through the Ministry responsible for Agriculture has rolled out a number key blue prints that speak to the transformation of the agriculture sector based on sustainable production practices and building resilience towards becoming a food self-sufficient country. The blue prints include the Agriculture Food Systems Transformation Strategy, the Horticulture Recovery Plan, the Agriculture Recovery Plan and the more specific 10-year Strategy on PGRFA. The 10 year National Strategy and Action Plan for PGRFA is expected to stimulate all the various processes, stakeholders and resources towards conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA. This will see Zimbabwe successfully fulfilling its commitments and obligations under the ITPGRFA including establishing mutually supportive implementation mechanisms with other international instruments like the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol. Its important to note that there is strong willingness from the private sector including seed companies and the manufacturing industry to take part in the processes and help the country achieve the sustainable development goals and the Global Plan of Action. The overarching challenge is the limited resources towards full implementation of resources. There is need to activate and operationalize the several funding mechanisms established under the National Strategy for PGRFA.

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:

>>> Zimbabwe has undergone economic recession and political challenges which span over a decade. As a result of that there has been high staff turnover and hence the lack of critical skills and resources to drive the full implementation of the ITPGRFA. With the coming in of a new dispensation with a new vision targeting to get the country to middle income economy status by the year 2030, this presents a new opportunity buttressed by great political will towards meeting national and international obligations. The country however requires support both locally and internationally to improve capacity of smallholder farmers and technocrats to address the conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA and contribute to minimize the continued loss of genetic resources which are an important resource for strengthening community resilience in the face of various challenges such as climate change and other natural disasters. Strategic efforts towards investments in advanced technologies such as DNA sequencing, tissue culture, genotyping are among the critical essential tools needed to advance the conservation of PGRFA in the country. Zimbabwe has a rich diversity of un explored crop genetic resources that can help diversify and build resilient food systems for the country and beyond and such tools remain key in realising such potential. Investments in key infrastructure, training of human resources and technology transfer are all essential through fostering North South technical cooperation.

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:

>>> There is need to raise awareness among stakeholders, policy makers and small holder farmers on the ITPGRFA and continued support to strengthen capacity in-terms of deepening the understanding the ITPGRFA at the very local level.

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:

>>> Had a problem with question for Article 15, 18 and Article 11 which despite having been answered still retains the icon as if it was not answered.

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

>>> We kindly request if possible for the reporting format to have allowance for the upload of multimedia files which assist in giving evidence of progress.