Origin of report

Party	Republic of Cuba
Contact officer for report	
Name and title of contact officer:	Juan Carlos Menéndez de San Pedro López Acting Director Centro Nacional de Seguridad Biológica (CNSB – National Biosafety Centre) Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment
Mailing address:	Calle 28, No. 504, between 5th Ave. and 7th Ave. Miramar, Playa Ciudad de la Habana, PC: 11300
Telephone:	(53-7) 202 3281
Fax:	(53-7) 202 3255
E-mail:	jcmspl@orasen.cu
Submission	
Signature of officer responsible for submitting report:	Jorge Luis Fernández Chamero Director International Cooperation Directorate Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment Republic of Cuba
Date of submission:	9 September 2005

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report:

- The instructions of the Head of the Competent National Authority with regard to the Cartagena Protocol, the Director of the National Biosafety Centre (CSB), to produce the Draft Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in the Republic of Cuba.

- Study of the format for presentation of the National Report by the Grupo de Salvaguardia (Safeguard Group) and the legal advisor of the CSB.

- Clarification, by the Safeguard Group, of each aspect to be reported on, with regard to the obligations set out in the Protocol, in the IUCN explanatory guide to the Protocol and in MOP decisions.

- Drafting of the proposed instructions for drafting the report, by the Safeguard Group and the legal advisor of the CSB

- Distribution of the tasks to be carried out within the CSB and coordination by CSB leadership to collect the data to be provided by other institutions.

- Compilation and assessment of the information provided by the Country to the CSB, by the CSB's Information and Training Department

- Drafting and approval of the Report by the CSB

- Approval and sending of the report to the National Focal Point, by the National Office for Environmental Regulation and Nuclear Safety (ORASEN).

- Sending of an original signed copy and an electronic copy of the National Report to the CBD Secretariat, by the National Focal Point.

Obligations for provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House

1. Several articles of the Protocol require that information be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House (see the list below). For your Government, if there are cases where relevant information exists but has not been provided to the BCH, describe any obstacles or impediments encountered regarding provision of that information (note: To answer this question, please check the BCH to determine the current status of your country's information submissions relative to the list of required information below. If you do not have access to the BCH, contact the Secretariat for a summary):

(a) Existing national legislation, regulations and guidelines for implementing the Protocol, as well as information required by Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 20.3(a))

All of the information on legislation, regulations and national guidelines in effect for implementing the Protocol, as well as a summary of the precepts of the regulatory regime applied within the country can be found in the BCH

(b) National laws, regulations and guidelines applicable to the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.5);

The information in the BCH, mentioned in the above point, covers the import of all LMOs.

The need to complement or modify the regulations in effect to cover the aspects of Articles 11 and 18 of the Protocol not addressed therein is being examined.

(c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14.2, 20.3(b), and 24.1);

No information has been recorded in the BCH on this issue because the country has not entered into any bilateral, multilateral or regional agreements or arrangements, with Parties or non-Parties, on the transboundary movement of LMOs (clarify with DCI-CITMA).

(d) Contact details for competent national authorities (Articles 19.2 and 19.3), national focal points (Articles 19.1 and 19.3), and emergency contacts (Article 17.2 and 17.3(e));

The BCH contains the country's records regarding the competent national authority in charge of the administrative functions required by the Protocol. The national focal point in charge of liaising with the Secretariat, and the national focal point for the BCH are registered there. The data regarding the national focal point to be contacted with notifications regarding involuntary transboundary movements (Article 17(2) is in the process of being approved by the country and will be made known as soon as possible.

(e) In cases of multiple competent national authorities, responsibilities for each (Articles 19.2

Not applicable.

There is nothing to report under subparagraphs f), g), h), i), j), k), l), m), n), o), p) and q) for the reporting period.

Information required to be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House:

(a) Existing national legislation, regulations and guidelines for implementing the Protocol, as well as information required by Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 20.3(a))

(b) National laws, regulations and guidelines applicable to the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.5);

(c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14.2, 20.3(b), and 24.1);

(d) Contact details for competent national authorities (Articles 19.2 and 19.3), national focal points (Articles 19.1 and 19.3), and emergency contacts (Article 17.2 and 17.3(e));

(e) In cases of multiple competent national authorities, responsibilities for each (Articles 19.2 and 19.3);

(f) Reports submitted by the Parties on the operation of the Protocol (Article 20.3(e));

(g) Occurrence of unintentional transboundary movements that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17.1);

(h) Illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25.3);

(i) Final decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs (i.e. approval or prohibition, any conditions, requests for further information, extensions granted, reasons for decision) (Articles 10.3 and 20.3(d));

(j) Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14.4);

(k) Final decisions regarding the domestic use of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.1);

(l) Final decisions regarding the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing that are taken under domestic regulatory frameworks (Article 11.4) or in accordance with Annex III (Article 11.6) (requirement of Article 20.3(d))

(m) Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.6)

(n) Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12.1);

(o) LMOs granted exemption status by each Party (Article 13.1)

(p) Cases where intentional transboundary movement may take place at the same time as the movement is notified to the Party of import (Article 13.1); and

(q) Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by regulatory processes and relevant information regarding products thereof (Article 20.3(c)).

Article 2 – General provisions

2. Has your country introduced the necessary legal, administrative and other measures for implementation of the Protocol? (Article 2.1)	
a) full domestic regulatory framework in place (please give details below)	
b) some measures introduced (please give details below)	X
c) no measures yet taken	

3. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 2, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

In 1996, Cuba began developing a process for drafting the legal framework for biosafety, in which the Biosafety Protocol was taken into account. The resulting legislation therefore contains the fundamental aspects related to biosafety. The basic characteristic of this legislation is its preventive nature with respect to potential damages that biological organisms, including LMOs, could cause to the environment and human health.

Legal and administrative measures for implementation of the Protocol

Decree-law 190: Respecting Biosafety. Regulates intentional introduction into the environment, the use of living modified organisms, including importation and exportation, confined use, hazardous biological waste, biological emergencies and functions of the governing body.
Resolution 67: Creation of the National Biosafety Centre. Defines the Regulatory Authority for matters linked to biosafety in Cuba.
Resolution 76: Regulation for the Granting of Biosafety Authorizations. Regulates authorizations for transboundary movement, the release of organisms into the environment, the construction of facilities, research, tests, production involving biological agents, organisms and fragments thereof with genetic information.
Resolution 8: General Biosafety Regulation for Facilities where Biological Agents and their Byproducts, Organisms and Fragments thereof with Genetic Information are Handled.
Resolution 103: Regulation Establishing the Biosafety Requirements and Procedures for Facilities that Use Biological Agents and their Byproducts, Organisms and Fragments thereof with Genetic Information.
Resolution 112: Regulation Establishing the Biosafety Requirements and Procedures for Facilities that Work with Plants and Animals that Represent a Biological Risk.

There is a Technical Standards Committee (CTN 91) which, in conjunction with the Cuban Food Registry and the CSB, works to adopt and draft standards that address specific technical aspects of biosafety in the area of food produced using biological technology means. There is also a Technical Standards Committee (CTN 94 on Biosafety) in charge of drafting standards that complement the aforementioned.

Regulations for aspects linked to liability and compensation (Article 27) and to the identification of LMOs are pending, awaiting developments in the Protocol's processes on these issues. Regulation of the issue of LMO transit is being examined by the national authority for the Cartagena Protocol, and by other national authorities related to this matter.

Articles 7 to 10 and 12: The advance informed agreement procedure

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

4. Is there a legal requirement for the accuracy of information provided by exporters 1/ under the jurisdiction of your country? (Article 8.2)	
a) yes	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of export	X
5. If you were a Party of export during this reporting period, did you request any Party of import to review a decision it had made under Article 10 on the grounds specified in Article 12.2?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of export	X
6. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 9.2(c).	
a) yes	
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	X
7. If your country has been a Party of export of LMOs intended for release into the environment during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Articles 7 to 10 and 12, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Not applicable.	
8. If your country has taken decisions on import of LMOs intended for release into the environment during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Articles 7 to 10 and 12, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Not applicable.	

1/ The use of terms in the questions follows the meanings accorded to them under Article 3 of the Protocol

Article 11 – Procedure for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

9. Is there a legal requirement for the accuracy of information provided by the applicant with respect to the domestic use of a living modified organism that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing? (Article 11.2)	
a) yes	X
b) no	
c) not applicable (please give details below)	
10. Has your country indicated its needs for financial and technical assistance and capacity building in respect of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing? (Article 11.9)	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	X
c) not relevant	
11. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 11.4?	
a) yes	
b) no	
c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period	X
12. If your country has been a Party of export of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing, during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Article 11, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Not applicable	
13. If your country has been a Party of import of LMOs intended for direct use for food or feed, or for processing, during the reporting period, please describe your experiences and progress in implementing Article 11, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Not applicable	

Article 13 – Simplified procedure

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

14. If your country has used the simplified procedure during the reporting period, please describe your experiences in implementing Article 13, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
Not applicable

Article 14 – Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

15. If your country has entered into bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements, describe your experiences in implementing Article 14 during the reporting period, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
None entered into.

Articles 15 and 16 – Risk assessment and risk management

16. If you were a Party of import during this reporting period, were risk assessments carried out for all decisions taken under Article 10? (Article 15.2)	
a) yes	
b) no (please clarify below)	
c) not a Party of import	X
17. If yes, did you require the exporter to carry out the risk assessment?	
a) yes – in all cases	
b) yes – in some cases (please specify the number and give further details below)	
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	X
18. If you took a decision under Article 10 during the reporting period, did you require the notifier to bear the cost of the risk assessment? (Article 15.3)	
a) yes – in all cases	
b) yes – in some cases (please specify the number and give further details below)	
c) no	Not applicable
19. Has your country established and maintained appropriate mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate, manage and control risks identified in the risk assessment provisions of the Protocol? (Article 16.1)	
a) yes	X
b) no	
20. Has your country adopted appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms? (Article 16.3)	
a) yes	X
b) no	
21. Does your country endeavour to ensure that any living modified organism, whether imported or locally developed, undergoes an appropriate period of observation commensurate with its life-cycle or generation time before it is put to its intended use? (Article 16.4)	
a) yes – in all cases	
b) yes – in some cases (please give further details below)	X (locally developed LMOs)
c) no (please give further details below)	
d) not applicable (please give further details below)	

22. Has your country cooperated with others for the purposes specified in Article 16.5?	
a) yes (please give further details below)	X
b) no (please give further details below)	

23. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Articles 15 and 16, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

In 2000, the National Authority established the procedures for granting biosafety authorizations linked to the development, use, handling and transboundary movement of LMOs, through Resolution 76/00 of CITMA: Regulation respecting biosafety authorizations. The Resolution stipulates that the applicant must present to the National Authority a technical file including the elements required to carry out the risk assessment and the proposed measures to manage the risks involved in the activity to be carried out, as part of the risk analysis process, and for the purpose of preventing adverse effects. These measures are analyzed by the National Authority's experts and, if necessary, new measures are imposed according to the conditions in effect under the Biosafety authorizations. Risk management measures are monitored through inspections carried out by the Regulating Body and the territorial Biosafety specialists before, during and after the activity is carried out.

In order to deal with the particular case of LMOs within the system of authorizations, a methodology was developed to assess and manage risks for their confined use and release. The methodology contains specific guidelines to be used as a basis for risk assessment of the various types of LMOs: plants, aquatic and non-aquatic animals and microorganisms.
The methodology contains guidance regarding internationally recognized techniques that can be used to identify the dangers represented by LMOs, and develops the necessary checklists.

With respect to risk management, the methodology sets out in detail the measures that can be used to prevent adverse effects for the different types of LMOs and according to the type of activity carried out. As part of the risk management aspect, the National Authority is currently developing a methodology for tracking and monitoring the adverse effects of LMOs.

The case of involuntary transboundary movements of LMOs is difficult, since our country is an island. Nevertheless, the risk assessment process contemplates the necessary measures to prevent this type of movement, based on which, the National Authority is setting up appropriate contention measures, fundamentally for aquatic organisms, as well as measures for emergencies, which must be established to deal with potential leaks that would imply transboundary movement.

Article 17 – Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

24. During the reporting period, if there were any occurrences under your jurisdiction that led, or could have led, to an unintentional transboundary movement of a living modified organism that had, or could have had, significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health in such States, did you immediately consult the affected or potentially affected States for the purposes specified in Article 17.4?	
a) yes – all relevant States immediately	
b) partially (please clarify below)	
c) no (please clarify below)	X (There have

	been no cases)
25. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences in implementing Article 17, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
In order to implement Article 17, coordination activities are taking place between the national authority for the Cartagena Protocol and the relevant governing authorities that deal with emergencies in the country. These activities will define the contact points required by this Article.	

Article 18 – Handling, transport, packaging and identification

26. Has your country taken measures to require that living modified organisms that are subject to transboundary movement within the scope of the Protocol are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety, taking into account relevant international rules and standards? (Article 18.1)	
a) yes (please give details below)	X (only applicable to transgenic microorganisms and LMOs destined for confined use)
b) no	
c) not applicable (please clarify below)	
27. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, clearly identifies that they 'may contain' living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for information? (Article 18.2(a))	
a) yes	
b) no	X
28. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms that are destined for contained use clearly identifies them as living modified organisms and specifies any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information, including the name and address of the individual and institution to whom the living modified organisms are consigned? (Article 18.2(b))	
a) yes	X
b) no	
29. Has your country adopted measures to require that documentation accompanying living modified organisms that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import and any other living modified organisms within the scope of the Protocol, clearly identifies them as living modified organisms; specifies the identity and relevant traits and/or characteristics, any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name and address of the importer and exporter; and contains a declaration that the movement is in conformity with the requirements of this Protocol applicable to the exporter? (Article 18.2(c))	
a) yes	X

b) no	

30. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 18, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

The National Authority in charge of granting biosafety authorizations for the importation and exportation of LMOs has taken the necessary internal measures to ensure that the documentation accompanying LMOs for confined use or release into the environment contain the information and declarations described in subparagraphs 2b) and 2c) of Article 18, in the form of the conditions for entry into effect of the authorization granted to carry out said activities.
In the case of the information that must be declared in the documentation accompanying LMOs, mentioned in subparagraph 2a) of Article 18, a decision is pending, depending on the outcome of negotiations within the context of the Protocol.
Similarly, in order to implement Article 18 with respect to LMOs destined for release into the environment and for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, capacity must be created for the development of standards for safe handling, packaging and transport.

Article 19 – Competent national authorities and national focal points

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Competent National Authorities:

Ulises Fernández Gomez, Eng. General Director. Oficina de Regulación Ambiental y Seguridad Nuclear (ORASEN – Environmental Regulation and Nuclear Safety Office). Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. Calle 28 No. 504 e/ 5ta y 7ma. Ave. Miramar. Playa. Ciudad de La Habana. CP 11300. Tel/Fax: (537) 203 1664. e-mail: ulises@orasen.cu

Lic. Juan Carlos Menéndez de San Pedro López. Acting Director. Centro Nacional de Seguridad Biológica (CNSB – National Biosafety Centre) Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. Calle 28 No. 502 e/ 5ta y 7ma. Ave. Miramar. Playa. Ciudad de La Habana. CP 11300. Tel.: (537) 202 3281 Fax: (537) 202 3255. e-mail: jcmspl@orasen.cu

National Focal Points:

Dr. José Antonio Díaz Duque. Deputy Minister. Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. Capitolio Nacional, Prado y San José. CP 10200, Tel.: (537) 867 0621, 867 0627. Fax: (537) 867 0600, e-mail: diazduque@citma.cu

Jorge Luís Fernández Chamero. Director. Dirección de Colaboración Internacional (International Cooperation Directorate). Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment. Capitolio Nacional, Prado y San José. CP 10200, Tel.: (537) 867 0606,Fax: (537) 866 8054, e-mail: chamero@citma.cu

Article 20 – Information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

31. In addition to the response to question 1, please describe any further details regarding your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 20, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:
In addition to the legislation, information has been disseminated through the BCH on risk analysis, courses, workshops and the list of experts. The list of experts is being revised to include other specialists. The experience has been a positive one, the BCH page is simple and user-friendly; the bulletin is received regularly and is a source of specific, up-to-date information on the discipline, and allows Cuba to participate in the exchange of information as a Party. Cuba's participation in meetings of experts has also been positive.

Article 21 – Confidential information

32. Does your country have procedures to protect confidential information received under the Protocol and that protect the confidentiality of such information in a manner no less favourable than its treatment of confidential information in connection with domestically produced living modified organisms? (Article 21.3)	
a) yes	X
b) no	
33. If you were a Party of import during this reporting period, did you permit any notifier to identify information submitted under the procedures of the Protocol or required by the Party of import as part of the advance informed agreement procedure that was to be treated as confidential? (Article 21.1)	
a) yes	
If yes, please give number of cases	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a Party of import	X
34. If you answered yes to the previous question, please provide information on your experience including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:	
Not applicable	
35. If you were a Party of export during this reporting period, please describe any impediments or difficulties encountered by you, or by exporters under your jurisdiction if information is available, in the implementation of the requirements of Article 21:	
Not applicable	

Article 22 – Capacity-building

36. If a developed country Party, during this reporting period has your country cooperated in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purposes of the effective implementation of the Protocol in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and in Parties with economies in transition?	
a) yes (please give details below)	
b) no	
c) not applicable – not a developed country Party	X
37. If yes, how has such cooperation taken place:	
Not applicable.	
38. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training in the proper and safe management of biotechnology to the extent that it is required for biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	X (Cooperation has been received for institutional and technical capacity-building in some areas, such as risk assessment. The need remains to extend this cooperation to the area of technology)
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
b) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	
39. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training in the use of risk assessment and risk management for biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	X (It is necessary to develop specialized training in this area for the regulating body's personnel. IT is furthermore necessary to build the capacity of the facilities that will be carrying out the scientific tests or trials required identify and monitor

	LMOs, and determine and assess their adverse effects)
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
d) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	

40. If a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition, have you benefited from cooperation for technical and scientific training for enhancement of technological and institutional capacities in biosafety?	
a) yes – capacity-building needs fully met (please give details below)	
b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below)	X (Cooperation has been received to build institutional capacity through GEF UNEP projects. It is necessary to begin to develop the technical capacity required by the development of biosafety.
c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below)	
d) no – we have no unmet capacity-building needs in this area	
e) not applicable – not a developing country Party or a Party with an economy in transition	

41. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 22, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

Development of human and institutional resources.

The National Authority, through the GEF-UNEP project, has developed its human resources with biosafety courses at the national level, specialized courses, and the development of a Masters in Biosafety, two rounds of which have been completed. It has also organized a correspondence course and national workshops on biosafety and LMOs, and held annual meetings with experts, making it possible to exchange experience. It has furthermore published monographs, manuals and a bulletin on Biosafety and LMO-related topics, and developed a specialized library.

Institutional capacity-building has also been achieved at the National Authority's headquarters by creating the Centre's classroom, which is equipped with audio-visual tools and for which other resources essential to the performance of regulatory activity is being acquired.

With regard to cooperation with other developing countries, cooperation activities have taken place through the participation of National Authority specialists in courses and workshops on Biosafety in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Paraguay. Advice has also been provided to the competent authorities of Bolivia and Paraguay.

Article 23 – Public awareness and participation

42. Does your country promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health? (Article 23.1(a))	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) no	
43. If yes, do you cooperate with other States and international bodies?	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	X
44. Does your country endeavour to ensure that public awareness and education encompass access to information on living modified organisms identified in accordance with the Protocol that may be imported? (Article 23.1(b))	
a) yes – fully	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) no	
45. Does your country, in accordance with its respective laws and regulations, consult the public in the decision-making process regarding living modified organisms and make the results of such decisions available to the public? (Article 23.2)	
a) yes – fully	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	X
46. Has your country informed its public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House? (Article 23.3)	
a) yes – fully	
b) yes – limited extent	X
c) no	
47. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 23, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
The National Authority has developed a public education program, limited by the lack of available funding and by the possibility of Internet access by the general public. This program involves radio and television programs, participation by the printed press, posters, pamphlets, conferences, workshops, talks and contests, all nation-wide. So far, radio and television programs have been produced, and several articles have been published in the printed press. Talks have been held at the community level.	

Article 24 – Non-Parties

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House**.**

48. If there have been transboundary movements of living modified organisms between your country and a non-Party, please provide information on your experience, including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered:
Not applicable.

Article 25 – Illegal transboundary movements

See question 1 regarding provision of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

49. Has your country adopted appropriate domestic measures to prevent and penalize, as appropriate, transboundary movements of living modified organisms carried out in contravention of its domestic measures? (Article 25.1)	
a) yes	X
b) no	
50. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences in implementing Article 25, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
There is a regime of administrative infractions with regard to the environment, which imposes sanctions on those who carry out activities without the proper environmental license. In this case, the biosafety authorization is considered a component of the environmental license.	

Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations

51. If during this reporting period your country has taken a decision on import, did it take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities? (Article 26.1)	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	
d) not a Party of import	X
52. Has your country cooperated with other Parties on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms, especially on indigenous and local communities? (Article 26.2)	
a) yes – significant extent	
b) yes – limited extent	
c) no	X
53. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 26, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:	
Nothing to add	

Article 28 – Financial mechanism and resources

54. Please indicate if, during the reporting period, your government made financial resources available to other Parties or received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions, for the purposes of implementation of the Protocol.	
a) yes – made financial resources available to other Parties	
b) yes – received financial resources from other Parties or financial institutions	X
c) both	
d) neither	

55. Please provide further details about your response to the above question, as well as description of your country's experiences, including any obstacles or impediments encountered:

Between 1999and 2001, our country negotiated with GEF/UNEP the project that is currently underway. The project was approved by the GEF Council with number GFL/2716-02-4536. It began in September 2002 and is scheduled to end in December 2005. The objectives of the project are:

1) To support the implementation of the administrative and regulatory system for biosafety.
2) To strengthen the capacity of the CNSB for training purposes.
3) To develop methodologies for risk assessment and monitoring.
4) To strengthen and develop the information exchange and database system, and a biosafety WEB.

Other information

56. Please use this box to provide any other information related to articles of the Protocol, questions in the reporting format, or other issues related to national implementation of the Protocol:
Nothing to add.

Comments on reporting format

The wording of these questions is based on the Articles of the Protocol. Please provide information on any difficulties that you have encountered in interpreting the wording of these questions:

No difficulties arose.