*Origin of report*

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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:

This report is based on documents generated by the UNEP-GEF National Biosafety Framework development project:

- Fouad Chehat: Extent and impact of release of genetically modified organisms.
- Mériem Laouer & Aissa Abdelguerfi: National, bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes on structural reinforcement, research and development and the application of biotechnologies.
- Zouaoui Bouznad: Biosafety situation in the country of Maghreb: institutional and regulatory aspects and conditions of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.
- K. Korichi-Hamana: Review of existing mechanisms for the harmonisation of risk assessment and management, mutual acceptance and validation of data.
- Salah Chouaki: Review and evaluation of existing laws which could have an impact on the use of modern biotechnologies.

It was also prepared on the basis of the national project.

***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). |
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| Presidential Decree No. 04-170 of 8 June 2004 to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in Montreal on 29 January 2000.<br><br>Ministerial Order No. 910 of 24 December 2000 prohibiting the importation, production, distribution, marketing and use of genetically modified plant material.<br><br>Act 05-03 of 6 February 2005 relating to seeds, plants and the protection of plant varieties.<br><br>Ordinance 2003-07 of 19 July 2003 concerning invention patents.<br><br>Moreover, Algeria is involved in many projects, accords and treaties, among them:<br>? Code of Conduct on Biotechnology as it relates to Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, initiated by the FAO in 1995.<br>? *Codex Alimentarius* Commission on the standardisation of foods derived from biotechnologies and their safety.<br>? World Trade Organization, which Algeria is currently joining and which encompasses underlying agreements that Algeria must adopt.<br>? International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) where Algeria has the role of observer.<br>? African Model Law on Safety in Biotechnology, on the Protection of the Rights of Local Communities, Farmers and Breeders and for the Regulation of Access to Biological Resources constitutes referential legislation for the drafting of national legislation. |

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***

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| 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: | |

Even though Algeria still has no specific strategy in regard to biosafety, it has been a stakeholder at various events concerning biotechnology, biodiversity and biosafety.

Algeria signed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (Presidential Decree No. 95-163 of 7 Moharrem 1416 (corresponding to 6 June 1995) to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (Presidential Decree No. 96-52 of 22 January 1996 for the accession of Algeria to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in countries severely effected by droughts and desertification, in particular Africa, adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994).

Moreover, Algeria signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in May 2000 and ratified it per Presidential Decree 04-170 on 8 June 2004. It is present, by its official representative of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) and the Conference of the Parties meetings of the Protocol (COP-MOP 1, Kuala Lumpur, February 2003; COP-MOP 2, Montreal, May 2005).

The creation of the National Centre on the Development of Biological Resources *(Centre National de Développement des Ressources Biologiques*) is a result of the implementation of the national strategy of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity developed by the Ministry of Land and Environment Management **(***Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement*). The objectives are to make a systematic inventory of all plant and animal life, both wild and domesticated, to periodically assess genetic erosion and to implement an *ex situ* and *in situ* conservation system of biological resources. The principal activities of the centre are:

- development of a data bank within a national network
- collaboration with research and development institutions in regard to research methods in the field of genetic resources
- creation of a network of biotechnology enhancement and research for economical and social development.
- setting up of a gene bank (in progress)

Algeria has many acts, ordinances, decrees and orders concerning the protection and conservation of the environment in general and biological diversity in particular. The statutory instruments concerning the international accords and conventions are:

**Presidential Decree No. 95-163 of 6 June 1995 to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity**, signed in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992.

**Presidential Decree No. 04-170 of 8 June 2004 to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** concerning the Convention on Biological Diversity, adopted in Montreal on 29 January 2000.

Concerning national legislation, only one legal instrument covers genetically modified organisms, in the form of a decree from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development *(Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural*). This order aims to, as a protective measure, avoid all risks of genetic erosion of the phytogenetic heritage related to the effects of the genetic flux associated with the use of transgenic plant material. The order also aims to set up the preliminary technical conditions for natural farming (biological farming).

**Ministerial Order No. 910 of 24 December 2000 prohibiting the importation, production, distribution, marketing and use of genetically modified plant material**. This order stipulates that "the importation, distribution, marketing and use of plant material plant that was subject to an artificial gene transfer coming from another individual belonging to a different species, or from a bacterial gene, is prohibited". According to Section 13 of Act 87-17 of 1 August 1987, plant material is understood to mean "living plants or living parts of plants including eyes, transplants, grafts, tubers, rhizomes, cuttings, shoots and seeds, intended for propagation or reproduction". Scientific institutions and certain research organisations will be able to, upon request and for analysis and research purposes, obtain authorisation from the phytosanitary authority- the Directorate of the Protection of Plants and Technical Inspections (*Direction de la Protection des*

*Végétaux et des Contrôles Techniques*) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development *(Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural*)- "introduce, hold, transport and use genetically modified plant material under preliminarily defined conditions". The request for an import permit should list the "applicant's name and first name, company name, nature of the plant material to be introduced, objective, location, conditions and duration of the manipulation or use".

**Act 05-03 of 6 February 2005, relative to seeds, plants and the protection of plant varieties**. This act, under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development *(Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural*), determines the conditions of registration, production, propagation and marketing of seeds and plants used in plant production and of the protection of plant varieties. Shortcomings exist in particular for the protection of genetic resources for farming and food production.

**Ordinance 2003-07 of 19 July 2003 concerning invention patents**. This ordinance prohibits any invention patent on plant varieties, animal breeds and procedures which are essentially biological as well as inventions that are harmful to human or animal health or injurious to the protection of the environment.

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

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

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| 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 | **x** |
| b) no | |
| c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period | |
| 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: | |
| Our country is not a Party of export of living modified organisms intended for release into the environment. | |
| 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: | |
| At the present moment, only plants and seeds are subject to a regulation. As a reminder, the regulation prohibits the importation, distribution, marketing and use of genetically modified plant material (plants, seeds, eyes, transplants, grafts, rhizomes, cuttings and shoots): Ministerial Order No. 910 of 24 December 2000 prohibiting the importation, production, distribution, marketing and use of genetically modified plant material. | |

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

Concerning importations, importers of plant material must provide a certificate stating the absence of GMO in the imported plants and seeds. The certificate is issued by the National Institute of the Protection of Plants (*Institut National de la Protection des végétaux*).

An exemption is made for scientific institutions and research structures, who can, for analysis and research purposes, introduce, hold, transport and use genetically modified plant material upon request and under preliminarily defined conditions.

The permit application must include the following information:
- Name, first name and company of the applicant
- Nature of the plant material to be introduced
- Objective, location, conditions and duration of the manipulation or use.

*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.

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| 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 | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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) | **X** |
| b) no | |
| c) not relevant | |
| 11. Did your country take decisions regarding import under domestic regulatory frameworks as allowed by Article 11.4? | |
| a) yes | **X** |
| b) no | |
| c) not applicable – no decisions taken during the reporting period | |
| 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: | |

The "National Biosafety Framework Development Project" contains a section on the needs. They are:

Strengthening of control capacities

It is of utmost importance that each sector implement its control system by resorting to the available infrastructures and material and human resources. This is all the more urgent for the control system of plants and seeds insofar as plant material is prohibited. A control laboratory must be set up rapidly and could utilise the expertise of the National Institute on Agronomic Research (*Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique*) or on the National Agronomic Institute (*Institut National Agronomique*).

The creation of specific GMO control units should not pose too big of a task. Capacity building in that domain is planned for control techniques and standardisations. This type of training is to take place in certain university

structures, such as the National Agronomic Institute (*Institut National Agronomique*), where the Laboratory of Phytopathology and Molecular Biology (*Laboratoire de Phytopathologie et Biologie Moléculaire*) is preparing a convention with the Laboratory of GMO Detection (*Laboratoire de détection des OGM*) of the INRA in Versailles. The latter laboratory ensures the coordination among associated European laboratories for GMO detection and traceability. Moreover, it will be necessary to acquire the analysis instruments (ELISA Reader, real-time NCP) required for risk assessment and management.

These perspectives could be realised by setting up a project for the future phase of the UNEP-GEF project, as soon as the administrative and organisational decisions have been made.

The control systems would be designated as a reference and mandated by the competent authority, via the National of Biosafety Committee (*Comité National de Biosécurité*) and the Scientific Expert Commissions (*Commissions d'expertises scientifiques*). The results of their control would be communicated to the Expert Commissions, which would issue an additional notice.

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:

Our country is not a Party of export.

*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: |
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| Algeria is not a Party of import of living modified organisms. |

*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: |
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| No bilateral, regional or multilateral accords or arrangements. |

*Articles 15 and 16 – Risk assessment and risk management*

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| 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 | **X** |
| 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** As part of the National Biosafety Framework |
| b) no | |
| 20. Has your country adopted appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms? (Article 16.3) | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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 | **X** |
| b) yes – in some cases (please give further details below) | |
| c) no (please give further details below) | |

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| 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) | |
| b) no (please give further details below) | **x** |
| 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: | |
| | |

*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 |
| 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: | |
| During the reporting period, there were no occurrences that led to a release resulting in an unintentional transboundary movement. | |

*Article 18 – Handling, transport, packaging and identification*

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| 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) | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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 | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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 | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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: | |
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*Article 19 – Competent national authorities and national focal points*

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

*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: |
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| Algeria is about to launch the implementation project for the Biosafety Clearing-House. |

*Article 21 – Confidential information*

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| 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 | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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: | |
| | |
| 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: | |
| Algeria is not a Party of export. | |

*Article 22 – Capacity-building*

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| 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: | |
| | |
| 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** |
| 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** |
| 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** |
| c) no – capacity-building needs remain unmet (please give details below) | |

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| 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:

In the framework of the development of the UNEP-GEF National Biosafety Framework project, a training workshop on **The Mechanisms of Risk Assessment and Management** took place in Algiers on 15- 16 June 2004. This workshop had some thirty participants from institutions and control and monitoring programmes who could play a role in the biosafety process.

*Article 23 – Public awareness and participation*

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| 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 | |
| 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 | X |
| b) yes – limited extent | |
| 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 | |
| c) no | X |
| 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: | |
| - In the framework of the UNEP-GEF project, a workshop on **The Mechanisms of Public Participation in the Biosafety Process** was organised in Algiers on 29 June 2004 for some thirty participants. The presentations focused on the knowledge of GMO, regulatory and administrative GMO management systems, the presentation of the implementation of the National Biosafety Framework project and the mechanisms of public participation in the | |

Biosafety Protocol.

- National workshop on public participation in the biosafety process:
Information and traceability, organised by the National Agronomic Institute (*Institut National Agronomique*) of Algiers and the association AREA-ED, December 2003.

**-** Informational support is provided in the form of newsletters, brochures and websites. The distributed information concerns international, regional and national legislation, scientific aspects of biotechnologies and biosafety, studies of impact on the environment, health and agrarian systems, relations to intellectual property rights and the appropriation of life as well as economical and social stakes.

In regard to Question 45, a public consultation will take place along with the implementation of the National Biosafety Framework.

In regard to Question 46, the Biosafety Clearing-House project will be launched soon.

*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: |
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| NONE |

*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 | |
| b) no | **X** |
| 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: | |
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*Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations*

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| 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 | **X** |
| c) no | |
| 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: | |
| | |

*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:

Algeria benefited from UNEP-GEF financing: 166,900 USD for the development of a National Biosafety Framework (project finalised). The financing of the implementation phase of that framework is foreseen by UNEP-GEF.

A request has also been made for the implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

***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:

Please note that Algeria, through the Ministry of Land and Environment Management **(***Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Environnement*), drafted a bill concerning the circulation of biological resources, the control of genetically modified organisms and the taking in charge of risks linked to the use of modern biotechnologies.

That bill reflects the Convention on Biological Diversity and the two African Model Laws on biosafety, access to biological resources, the rights of local communities and the sharing of benefits. The main objectives are to be determined:

- The conditions of collecting, circulating and using biological resources as well as the knowledge associated with them.
- The conditions of holding or using GMOs as well as safety rules related to assuming risks arising from the use of modern biotechnologies. This is to protect the entirety of ecosystems in general and biological resources in particular. The GMOs considered in this bill are intended for:

- o research and experimentation
- o importation and transit
- o confined use
- o voluntary distribution
- o marketing
- o production of GMO

A National Authority on Biological Resources and Biosafety (*Autorité Nationale des Ressources Biologiques et de la Biosécurité*), constituting the official notification authority, is planned for the implementation of that act. The authority is composed of a legislative body and an expert commission.

However, that bill was only adopted by the Government Council and the Council of Ministers (*Conseil du Gouvernement, Conseil des Ministres*).

Please note also that Algeria has just recently completed the National Biosafety Framework Development project. It is now in the phase of launching the implementation of that framework on an institutional and legal level, including the implementation of all the articles of the Cartagena Protocol.

*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:

The questions reflect the most important articles of the Protocol. There were no difficulties in interpreting the questions.