**FIRST REGULAR NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

*Origin of report*

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| Date of submission: | 28 June 2008 |
| Time period covered by this report: | Feb 2004 – January 2007 |

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:

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*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 Biosafety Clearing-House (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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| Most of the articles of the Protocol which require provision of information on the BCH require existence of national laws and administrative structures for implementation of such laws. The national law is still a draft bill and the administrative structure does not yet exist. Accordingly, much of the information required does not in fact exist. In addition not all information available is provided to the BCH because t generating such information requires existence of an implementation mechanism and a structure as well as considerable coordination among stakeholders which involves cost that can be provided only upon approval of the biosafety law and its administrative structure. In any case, reporting to the Secretariat of the Protocol involves the use of human resources and physical facilities not normally available to the National Focal Point without due financial support. |

2. Please provide an overview of information that is required to be provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House:

| *Type of information* | *Information exists and is being provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House* | *Information exists but is not yet provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House* | *Information does not exist /not applicable* |
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| 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)) | | | X- In draft form only |
| 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); | | | X- In draft form only |
| c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14.2, 20.3(b), and 24.1); | | | X- None exists |
| 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)); | X- Available to the BCH | | |
| e) In cases of multiple competent national authorities, responsibilities for each (Articles 19.2 and 19.3); | | | X- N/A |
| f) Reports submitted by the Parties on the operation of the Protocol (Article 20.3(e)); | Available to the BCH | | |

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| g) Occurrence of unintentional transboundary movements that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17.1); | | | X- None reported |
| *Type of information* | *Information exists and is being provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House* | *Information exists but is not yet provided to the Biosafety Clearing-House* | *Information does not exist /not applicable* |
| h) Illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25.3); | | | X- No incidents reported |
| 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)); | | | X- No applications received |
| j) Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14.4); | | | X- No applications received |
| 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); | | | X- No applications received |
| 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)) | | | X- No applications received |
| m) Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11.6) | | | X- No declaration made |
| n) Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12.1); | | | X- N/A |
| o) LMOs granted exemption status by each Party (Article 13.1) | | | X- None granted |
| 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); | | | X- None granted |

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

*Article 2 – General provisions*

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| 3. 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) | X- Draft only |
| b) some measures introduced (please give details below) | |
| c) no measures yet taken | |
| 4. 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: | |
| An inter-ministerial committee was established early in 2004 and deliberated the drafting of a biosafety law for several months. All relevant governmental and private bodies (46 in all) were consulted and 2 open-ended workshops were held. A draft law was circulated to all stakeholders and comments were taken into consideration. A final draft was sent to the Ministry of Justice which passed to all ministries for comments. Comments came from one ministry which required consultation among the ministries under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A final draft was approved by all ministries and was re-drafted in legal language by the Ministry of Justice. The draft was passed to the Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs. It is in the pipelines at the ministry for presentation to the Cabinet of Ministers and thence to the People's Assembly in its next session.<br>The Executive Directive Regulations are currently being drafted by the same stakeholders involved in drafting the law so that it will be available immediately after the law is passed by the People's assembly | |

*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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| 5. Were you a Party of import during this reporting period? | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | X |
| 6. Were you a Party of export during this reporting period? | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | X |
| 7. 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) not yet, but under development | |
| c) no | |

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

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| d) not applicable – not a Party of export | X |
| 8. 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) not yet, but under development | |
| c) no | |
| d) not applicable – not a Party of export | X |
| 9. 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 |
| 10. 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 a Party of export | |
| 11. 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: | |
| No decisions taken | |

*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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| 12. 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) not yet, but under development | X- In draft law |
| c) no | |
| d) not applicable (please give details below) | |
| 13. 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- *GEF has already approved a demonstration project for* |

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| | *implementation (2007)* |
| b) no | |
| c) not relevant | |
| 14. 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 |
| 15. 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 a party of export | |
| 16. 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: | |
| We are not aware of such shipments having been exported to Egypt | |

*Article 13 – Simplified procedure*

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

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| 17. Have you applied the simplified procedure during the reporting period? | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | X |
| 18. If your country has used the simplified procedure during the reporting period, or if you have been unable to do so for some reason, 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.

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| 19. Has your country entered into any bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements? | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | X |

| 20. If your country has entered into bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements, or if you have been unable to do so for some reason, describe your experiences in implementing Article 14 during the reporting period, including any obstacles or impediments encountered: |
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| No such agreements |

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

| 21. 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) | |
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| a) yes | |
| b) no (please clarify below) | X |
| c) not a Party of import / no decisions taken under Article 10 | |
| 22. If yes to question 21, 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 / no decisions taken under Article 10 | X |
| 23. 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 | |
| d) not a Party of import / no decisions taken under Article 10 | X |
| 24. 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 – fully established | X- In draft law |
| b) not yet, but under development or partially established (please give further details below) | |
| c) no | |
| 25. Has your country adopted appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms? (Article 16.3) | |
| a) yes – fully adopted | X- In draft law |
| b) not yet, but under development or partially adopted (please give further details below) | |
| c) no | |

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| 26. 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- In draft law |
| b) yes – in some cases (please give further details below) | |
| c) no (please give further details below) | |
| d) not applicable (please give further details below) | |
| 27. 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- *No opportunity for such action so far* |
| 28. 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: | |
| The absence of a binding national law impedes implementation of the Protocol | |

*Article 17 – Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures*

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

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| 29. 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) yes – partially consulted, or consultations were delayed (please clarify below) | |
| c) no – did not consult immediately (please clarify below) | |
| d) not applicable (no such occurrences) | X |
| 30. 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: | |
| The absence of a binding national law impedes implementation of the Protocol | |

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

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| 31. 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- In draft |

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| | law |
| b) not yet, but under development | |
| c) no | |
| d) not applicable (please clarify below) | |
| 32. 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) not yet, but under development | X- In draft law |
| c) no | |
| 33. 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) not yet, but under development | X- In draft law |
| c) no | |
| 34. 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) not yet, but under development | X- In draft law |
| c) no | |
| 35. Please provide further details about your responses to the above questions, as well as a description of your country's experiences and progress in implementing Article 18, including any obstacles or impediments encountered: | |
| The absence of a binding national law impedes implementation of the Protocol | |

*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.

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| 36. 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: |
| The absence of a binding national law impedes implementation of Article 20 of the Protocol. The full implementation requires an administrative structure in place, which would take place only after the law is passed by the People's Assembly |

*Article 21 – Confidential information*

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| 37. 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) not yet, but under development | X- In draft law |
| c) no | |
| 38. 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 / no such requests received | X |
| 39. If you answered yes to the previous question, please provide information on your experience including description of any impediments or difficulties encountered: | |
| | |
| 40. 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 a party of export | |

*Article 22 – Capacity-building*

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| 41. 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 |

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| 42. If yes to question 41, how has such cooperation taken place: | |
| Not a developed country | |
| 43. If a developing country Party, or Party with an economy in transition, during this reporting period has your country contributed to the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety for the purposes of the effective implementation of the Protocol in another developing country Party or Party with an economy in transition? | |
| a) yes (please give details below) | |
| b) no | X |
| c) not applicable – not a developing country Party | |
| 44. If yes to question 43, how has such cooperation taken place: | |
| | |
| 45. 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) | X- *Egypt signed a demonstration implementation project with GEF in 2007 and is also involved with the BCH capacity building project operated by GEF/UNEP* |
| b) yes – capacity-building needs partially met (please give details below) | |
| 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 | |
| 46. 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 | |

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| in transition | |
| 47. 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- *Egypt signed a demonstration implementation project with GEF in 2007 and is also involved with the BCH capacity building project operated by GEF/UNEP. These projects will provide for such capacity building* |
| 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 | |
| 48. 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: | |
| Egypt signed a demonstration implementation project with GEF in 2007 and is also involved with the BCH capacity building project operated by GEF/UNEP which meets capacity building needs identified by Egypt. | |

*Article 23 – Public awareness and participation*

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| 49. 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 | |
| 50. If yes, do you cooperate with other States and international bodies? | |

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| a) yes – significant extent | |
| b) yes – limited extent | |
| c) no | X |
| 51. 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- in the draft law |
| b) yes – limited extent | |
| c) no | |
| 52. 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 | X- in the draft law |
| b) yes – limited extent | |
| c) no | |
| 53. 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 | |
| 54. 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 draft biosafety law emphasises transparency of decision making and access of the public to information and calls for participation of the civil society in decision making and in access to justice in the prosecution of and liability/redress by violators of the law. | |

*Article 24 – Non-Parties*

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

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| 55. Have there been any transboundary movements of living modified organisms between your country and a non-Party during the reporting period? | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | X |
| 56. 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: | |
| No known cases. | |

*Article 25 – Illegal transboundary movements*

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

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| 57. 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- in the draft law |
| b) no | |
| 58. Have there been any illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms into your country during the reporting period? | |
| a) yes | |
| b) no | X |
| 59. 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: | |
| No known cases. | |

*Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations*

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| 60. 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 | X- No such decisions taken |
| d) not a Party of import | |
| 61. 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 |
| 62. 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: | |
| Research and measurable or observable parameters are required. | |

*Article 28 – Financial mechanism and resources*

| 63. 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. | |
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| 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 | |

| 64. 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: |
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| Egypt signed a demonstration implementation project with GEF in 2007 and is also involved with the BCH capacity building project operated by GEF/UNEP. |

*Other information*

| 65. 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: |
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| Once the national law is enacted most problems met will be overcome. |

*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:

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| Some of the questions are a little confusing and seem repetitive. This is due to the nature of the format following the articles of the Protocol. However, I understand the value of an article-based report in formulation of an analysis of all reports from different countries.<br>In a few cases there is no room for the comments called for by a given question. |