

Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABSCH)

LAST UPDATED: 27 FEB 2026

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General Information

1. Country

Belarus

2. Time period covered by this report

From

01 Nov 2017

To

27 Feb 2026

Part II - Institutional structures for the implementation of the Protocol

Article 13.1

3. Has your country designated a national focal point?

Yes

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Additional Information

Belarus has designated an ABS national focal point <https://www.cbd.int/doc/lists/nfp-abs.pdf> To ensure the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (hereinafter referred to as “the Nagoya Protocol”) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing (hereinafter referred to as “the ABS NCC”) was established in 2014 in accordance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of October 1, 2014, No. 933 “On the Establishment of the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing.”

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In 2024, the powers of the ABS NCC were stated in the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No.356-3 (Articles 1, 6, 12) and the Resolution of the Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus of October 14, 2024, No. 36 “On Approval of the Provision for the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing.” The Centre’s website: abs.igc.by Information on ABS NCC powers is available at <https://abs.igc.by/about-us/centre-objectives/>

Article 13.2

4. Has your country designated at least one competent national authority?

Yes

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Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus acceded to the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus “On the Accession to the International Treaty” of May 22, 2014, No. 235, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (hereinafter “the Ministry of Nature”) was designated as the Competent National Authority. Those powers of the Ministry of Nature were stated in the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No.356-3 (Article 10).

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4.1. Has your country published information on its competent national authorities in the ABS Clearing-House?

Yes

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4.2. Does your country have plans to designate additional competent national authorities in the future?

No

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Article 17

5. Has your country designated at least one checkpoint?

Yes

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Additional Information

The ABS NCC was designated as the Checkpoint pursuant to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of October 1, 2014 No. 933 “On the Establishment of the National Coordination Centre for Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing”. Now, its powers and functions are stated in the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No.356-3 (Chapter 5) and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of December 20, 2024, No. 982 “On Measures for the Implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3” (Clause 3).

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5.1. Has your country published information on its checkpoints in the ABS Clearing-House?

Yes

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5.2. Does your country have plans to designate additional checkpoints in the future?

No

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Additional information on institutional structures for the implementation of the Protocol

6. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

[ABS NCC website](#) [*English*]

Additional Information

One of the key lessons learned by the Republic of Belarus is the importance of establishing a comprehensive and legally binding national ABS framework that clearly defines institutional responsibility, access procedures, and benefit-sharing obligations. Although Belarus has been a Party to the Nagoya Protocol since 2014, practical implementation remained limited until the adoption of the special Law “On Genetic Resources Management” in 2024.

A major challenge was the absence of a unified legal act regulating access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing, as well as the need to coordinate environmental, scientific and administrative authorities. This challenge was addressed through the adoption of the Law “On Genetic Resources Management”,

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which clearly designates the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as the competent national authority and assigns operational responsibilities to the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing. The Centre ensures coordinated decision-making, monitoring and international cooperation.

The new legal framework made it possible to move from fragmented regulation to a harmonized system aligned with the Nagoya Protocol, providing legal certainty for providers and users of genetic resources.

Part III - Measures on access to genetic resources (Article 6)

Questions on the provisions of Article 6 related to indigenous peoples and local communities are found in Part VIII of this reporting format.

7. Has your country established legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS?

Yes

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Additional Information

ABS is regulated in Belarus by the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No.356-3; the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of December 20, 2024, No. 982 “On measures for the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3”; and the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus “On the establishment of the forms of documents in the field of genetic resources management” of December 20, 2024, No. 72.

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7.1. Has your country published information on its legislative, administrative or policy measures in the ABS Clearing-House?

Yes

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Article 6.1

8. In your country, is access to genetic resources subject to prior informed consent?

Yes, in some cases

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Additional Information

The Law “On Genetic Resources Management” establishes special terms regulating access to plant genetic resources for food and agricultural industries. These terms are as follows: Article 14, clause 12, of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 states that “Upon the provision (a change in terms) of access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture a list of which is established by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus for noncommercial research purposes, the approval of the Ministry of Nature shall not be requested.” The list of genetic resources for food and agriculture is established by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of December 20, 2024, No. 982 “On measures for the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3.

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If you answered No to question 8, please skip questions 9 to 14, and continue to Part IV.

Article 6.3 (b)

9. Does your country have fair and non-arbitrary rules and procedures on accessing genetic resources?

Yes

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Additional Information

A procedure for access to all genetic resources (hereinafter referred to as “GRs”) is regulated by Article 14 (Access to Genetic Resources) of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3

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Article 6.3 (c)

10. Does your country provide information on how to apply for prior informed consent?

Yes

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Additional Information

Applying for prior informed consent (PIC) is the responsibility of the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (ABS NCC) based on information provided by an applicant. The Ministry of Natural Resources

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and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus (the Competent National Authority) issues PIC based on information provided by ABS NCC.

10.1. Has your country published information on how to apply for PIC on the ABS Clearing-House through the ABS Procedures common format?

Yes

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Article 6.3 (d)

11. Does your country provide for a clear and transparent written decision by a competent national authority?

Yes

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Additional Information

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection is the Competent National Authority of the Republic of Belarus. The Ministry issues access permits in the form of an official letter that approves GRs access and confirms that the GRs transfer is carried out in accordance with MAT and complies with the Nagoya Protocol.

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Article 6.3 (e)

12. Does your country provide for the issuance of a permit or its equivalent at the time of access?

Yes

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Additional Information

Please see Article 6.3 (d) above.

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12.1. How many permits (or their equivalent) has your country issued during the reporting period? If no permits were issued, please indicate 0.

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Additional Information

Access to genetic resources for research purposes

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12.2. Has your country published relevant information on permits or their equivalent as internationally recognized certificates of compliance to the ABS Clearing-House?

Yes

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Article 6.3 (g)

13. Does your country have rules and procedures for requiring and establishing mutually agreed terms?

Yes

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Additional Information

MAT procedures are established and regulated by the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Genetic Resources Management" of March 5, 2024, No.356-3; the Resolution of the Council of Ministers "On measures for the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus of March 5, 2024 No. 356-3 "On Genetic Resources Management" of December 20, 2024, No. 982; and the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus "On the establishment of the forms of documents in the field of genetic resources management" of December 20, 2024, No. 72. The MAT procedures are set in the Genetic Resources Transfer Agreement (GRs TA) concluded between the GRs provider and the GRs user.

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13.1. Has your country published National Model Contractual Clauses to the ABS Clearing-House?

Yes

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Additional information.

14. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

[ABS NCC website](#) [English]

Additional Information

One of the key lessons learned by the Republic of Belarus is the importance of establishing a comprehensive and legally binding national ABS framework that clearly defines institutional responsibility, access procedures, and benefit-sharing obligations. Although Belarus has been a Party to the Nagoya Protocol since 2014, practical implementation remained limited until the adoption of the special Law “On Genetic Resources Management” in 2024. The new legal framework made it possible to move from fragmented regulation to a harmonized system aligned with the Protocol, providing legal certainty for providers and users of genetic resources. This challenge was addressed by the adoption of the Law “On Genetic Resources Management”, which clearly designates the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as the Competent National Authority and assigns operational responsibilities to the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing. The Center ensures coordinated decision-making, monitoring and international cooperation.

One of the main challenges was determined by the absence of previous national experience in negotiating of mutually agreed terms and identifying appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms, especially in the early stages of the Nagoya Protocol enforcement effort when commercial outcomes were unclear. The problem was solved by legally requiring the inclusion of mutually agreed terms in all access agreements and defining monetary and non-monetary benefits, including scientific results, publications, data exchange, capacity building, etc.

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Part IV - Measures on fair and equitable benefit-sharing (Article 5)

Article 5.3

15. Does your country have measures in place requiring that benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, as well as subsequent applications and commercialization, be shared with the Party providing such resources?

Yes

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Additional Information

Measures for fair and equitable benefit-sharing are regulated by the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No.356-3 (Article 15, 24-26). Monetary benefits include, inter alia, royalties derived from mass production and other commercial use of products and materials developed or modified using genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge, preferential purchasing terms for such products by the provider, as well as other agreed financial benefits. The amount of monetary benefits, calculation methods, and payment terms are determined by mutually agreed terms (MAT) in

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corresponding agreements. Where genetic resources are provided by Belarus, monetary benefits are distributed so that 90% is transferred to the provider, and 10% is allocated to a special account of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. These funds are used for the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, research and development, and the operation of the national coordination mechanism. In addition, legislation stipulates non-monetary benefits, which may include the sharing of research and development results, transfer of technologies for the utilization of genetic resources, participation of the provider in research activities, delivery of required equipment, improvement of provider infrastructure, and other non-monetary benefits. The procedures for distributing such benefits are also established contractually.

Article 5.2

16. Does your country have measures in place aiming to ensure that benefits from the utilization of genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities are shared with the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned?

No

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Additional Information

In the national context of Belarus, there are no indigenous peoples as defined by the international law. However, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is supported by local associations preserving traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. The Law “On Genetic Resources Management” officially recognizes traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources as an object of legal regulation and requires the documented permission of knowledge holders to use or transfer it. This approach provides legal clarity and allows incorporating traditional knowledge into contractual agreements and benefit-sharing arrangements, where applicable. The forms of documents for the transfer of traditional knowledge are defined by the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus “On the establishment of the forms of documents in the field of genetic resources management” of December 20, 2024, No. 72.

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Article 5.5

17. Has your country taken measures in order that benefits arising from the utilization of traditional

knowledge associated with genetic resources are shared with indigenous peoples and local communities holding such knowledge?

No

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Additional Information

The sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge is ensured by the general legal framework applicable to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge rather than separate community-specific procedures. The Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Genetic Resources Management" (Article 15, 24-26).

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Additional information.

18. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Additional Information

Currently, Belarus has no experience in transferring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

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Part V - Measures on compliance with domestic legislation or regulatory requirements on ABS (Articles 15 and Article 16) and monitoring the utilization of genetic resources (Article 17)

Article 15

19. Has your country taken appropriate, effective and proportionate measures to provide that genetic resources utilized within its jurisdiction have been accessed in accordance with prior informed consent and that mutually agreed terms have been established as required by the domestic ABS legislation or regulatory requirements of other Parties?

Yes

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Additional Information

Belarus has established monitoring mechanisms requiring users, within its jurisdiction, to notify authorities of the utilization of genetic resources obtained from other Parties to the Nagoya Protocol and to report on such utilization results.

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The designated Checkpoint (ABS NCC) analyses this information and, if necessary, cooperates with competent national authorities of provider countries.

19.1. Has your country encountered and addressed situations of non-compliance with these measures?

No

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Additional Information

To date, no cases of non-compliance with these requirements have been officially identified or recorded. Consequently, no corrective or enforcement measures have been required.

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19.2. Has your country cooperated with other Parties in specific cases of alleged violation of ABS measures relating to genetic resources?

No

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Additional Information

No cases of alleged non-compliance, involving genetic resources utilization within Belarus or transferred from it requiring international cooperation under the Nagoya Protocol, have been officially identified or recorded. Accordingly, no requests for mutual assistance, information exchange, or enforcement cooperation with other Parties have arisen.

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Article 16

20. Has your country taken appropriate, effective and proportionate measures to provide that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources utilized within its jurisdiction has been accessed with the prior informed consent or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities and that mutually agreed terms have been established in accordance with the domestic requirements of the Party where such indigenous peoples and local communities are located?

Yes

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Additional Information

In the national context of Belarus, there are no indigenous peoples as defined by the international law. However, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is supported by local associations preserving such traditional knowledge

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(the use of medicinal herbs, the use of plants and animals in the traditional cuisine of Belarusians, etc.). The main task is to ensure the legal protection of such knowledge and the rights of its holders. The Law "On Genetic Resources Management" officially recognizes traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources as an object of legal regulation and requires the documented permission of knowledge holders to use or transfer it. This approach provides legal clarity and allows incorporating traditional knowledge into contractual agreements and benefit-sharing arrangements, where applicable.

20.1. Has your country encountered and addressed situations of non-compliance with these measures?

No

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Additional Information

To date, no cases of non-compliance with these measures have been officially identified or recorded.

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20.2. Has your country cooperated with other Parties in specific cases of alleged violation of ABS measures relating to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources?

No

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Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus has not cooperated with other Parties in the specific cases of alleged violations of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) measures relating to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. No cases of alleged non-compliance involving traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and requiring international cooperation under the Nagoya Protocol have been officially identified or recorded.

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Article 17.1(a)

21. Does your country require users of genetic resources to provide the information referred to in Article 17.1 (a)(i) to its designated checkpoint/s?

Yes, in all cases

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Additional Information

It is regulated by the Law of the Republic of Belarus "On Genetic Resources

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Management” of March 5, 2024, No.356-3 (Chapter 5) and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of December 20, 2024, No. 982 “On measures for the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3.” Users of genetic resources are required to provide information on GRs utilization results to the designated checkpoint annually, but no later than 1 February of the year following each year of GRs utilization. This requirement applies both to genetic resources transferred outside the Republic of Belarus and to those transferred into the country from other Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

21.1. Have your designated checkpoint/s collected or received information from users during the reporting period?

Yes

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21.2. Has your country published the information collected or received to the ABS Clearing-House through the Checkpoint Communiqué common format?

No

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, information collected or obtained through checkpoints is to be submitted to the ABS Clearing-House in accordance with national legislation. Currently, Belarus has no information to publish in the general format of a “Checkpoint Communiqué”.

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21.3. Has your country provided the information referred to in Article 17.1 (a)(i) to relevant national authorities and to the Party providing prior informed consent through other means than the ABS Clearing-House?

No

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Article 17.1(b)

22. Has your country taken measures to encourage users and providers to include provisions in mutually agreed terms to share information on the implementation of such terms?

Yes

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 (Chapter 3) encourages GRs users and providers to include provisions on information-sharing with regard to the implementation of mutually agreed terms in GRs transfer and GRs utilization agreements. Such agreements are required to specify mutually agreed terms, including benefit-sharing arrangements, rights and obligations of Parties, expected results of utilization, and liability for non-compliance. The legal framework also establishes monitoring mechanisms through designated checkpoints and requires users to submit information on genetic resources utilization results within established timeframes.

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Article 17.1(c)

23. Does your country encourage the use of cost-effective communication tools and systems to monitor utilization and enhance transparency?

Yes

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, national legislation encourages the use of cost-effective communication tools and information systems to monitor the utilization of genetic resources and to enhance transparency. The legal framework provides for the establishment and use of electronic tools, including an electronic monitoring database maintained by the ABS NCC, as well as the submission of notifications and information by users and providers in electronic form. Information collected through designated checkpoints is consolidated, analysed and used to monitor compliance with access and benefit-sharing requirements. These measures support transparent, efficient, and cost-effective monitoring of GRs utilization and related benefit-sharing obligations.

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Additional information.

24. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, a key positive result was the development of a centralized legal and institutional framework for access to genetic resources and

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benefit-sharing. The establishment of a single ABS NCC (also fulfilling the functions of a Checkpoint) has contributed to clearer responsibilities, better coordination, and greater legal certainty for users and service providers. The introduction of monitoring procedures and an electronic database has contributed to cost-effective communication, reduced administrative burden, and enhanced transparency in GRs utilization monitoring.

At the same time, a legal framework and by-laws have been adopted relatively recently. Therefore, all monitoring and reporting mechanisms have not yet been fully implemented. The limited experience of some users in the field of ABS-related reporting has led to initial problems.

The main reasons include the transitional nature of the regulatory system. Continuous awareness-raising, recommendations for users and providers, and gradual improvement of digital tools are expected to further enhance the efficiency, transparency, and cost-effectiveness of GRs utilization monitoring.

Part VI - Measures on compliance with mutually agreed terms (Article 18)

When filling this section, Parties are encouraged to coordinate at national level to draw from the expertise of other institutions dealing with contractual law, private international law or domestic measures related to access to justice (decision NP-3/1, paragraph 22)

Article 18.1

25. Is your country encouraging the inclusion of provisions on dispute resolution in mutually agreed terms?

Yes

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Additional Information

Such provisions are stipulated by the GRs Transfer Agreement.

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Article 18.2

26. Does your country ensure that opportunity to seek recourse is available under your legal systems in case of disputes arising from mutually agreed terms?

Yes

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, the opportunity to seek recourse is ensured under the national legal system in cases of disputes arising from mutually agreed terms. Mutually agreed terms contained in genetic resources transfer agreements are legally binding and enforceable under national law. Disputes arising from such agreements may be resolved through the procedures specified in agreements themselves, including dispute settlement clauses, as well as through judicial or other lawful remedies available under the national legal system.

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Article 18.3 (a)

27. Has your country taken measures regarding access to justice?

Yes

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, measures regarding access to justice are in place within the national legal system. The Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 establishes legally binding rights and obligations arising from mutually agreed terms. In particular, Article 15, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1.9 requires GRs transfer and utilization agreements to include provisions for the liability of Parties and dispute settlement procedures. In addition, Articles 18 and 19 define the rights and obligations of providers and users, including the obligation to comply with the terms of such agreements and the right to fair and equitable benefit-sharing, making such obligations enforceable under national law. Furthermore, Article 21 of the Law establishes monitoring mechanisms to assess compliance with mutually agreed terms, while Article 23 provides that violations of legislation in the field of genetic resources management entail liability in accordance with legislative acts, thereby enabling Parties to seek judicial or other lawful remedies. These provisions are further supported by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus of December 20, 2024, No. 982, which operationalizes monitoring procedures and reporting obligations, strengthens transparency and facilitates the identification of non-compliance that may give rise to recourse under the legal system.

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Article 18.3 (b)

28. Has your country taken measures regarding utilization of mechanisms on mutual recognition and enforcement of foreign judgements and arbitral awards?

Yes, to some extent

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, no measures have been taken within the scope of legislation on genetic resources regarding the implementation of mechanisms for the mutual recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments and arbitral awards. Article 15, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1.9 of the Law “On Genetic Resources Management” requires that GRs transfer agreements include dispute settlement procedures, but the Law does not specify or encourage the use of mechanisms related to mutual recognition or enforcement of foreign judgments or arbitral awards. Furthermore, Article 23 only establishes liability for violations in general terms, without addressing international enforcement aspects. However, such mechanisms may be addressed contractually through mutually agreed terms.

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Additional information.

29. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Additional Information

In Belarus, a similar mechanism has not been tested in practice yet.

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Part VII - Measures addressing special considerations (Article 8)

Article 8(a)

30. In the development and implementation of its ABS legislation or regulatory requirements, has your country created conditions to promote and encourage research which contributes to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity including through simplified measures on access for non-commercial research purposes?

Yes

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, conditions have been created to promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through simplified access measures for non-commercial research purposes.

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Specifically, Article 2(5) of the Law “On Genetic Resources Management” provides for simplified access measures for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for non-commercial research purposes, and Article 14(12) removes the requirement to obtain approval from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in such cases.

Article 8(b)

31. In the development and implementation of its ABS legislation or regulatory requirements, has your country paid due regard to cases of present or imminent emergencies that threaten or damage human, animal or plant health?

No

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Additional Information

The Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 excludes from its scope relations associated with the management of human genetic resources and potentially pathogenic and pathogenic microorganisms (Article 2, paragraph 4). By excluding these categories from ABS regulation, legislation ensures that matters related to public, animal, and plant health emergencies are regulated under specialized health and biosafety frameworks rather than ABS access procedures.

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31.1. In such cases, has your country considered the need for expeditious access to genetic resources and expeditious fair and equitable sharing, including access to affordable treatments by those in need?

Article 8(c)

32. In the development and implementation of its ABS legislation or regulatory requirements, has your country considered the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture and their special role for food security?

Yes

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Additional Information

The Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 states that it is aimed, inter alia, at ensuring food security. In

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addition, Article 2(5) provides for simplified access measures for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for non-commercial research purposes, and Article 14(12) establishes a simplified procedure for access to such resources. Furthermore, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of December 20, 2024, No. 982 approves a specific list of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture that is covered by Article 2(5).

Additional information.

33. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Additional Information

Comments are currently unavailable due to insufficient data.

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Part VIII - Measures related to indigenous peoples and local communities (Articles 6, 7 and 12)

34. Are there indigenous peoples and local communities in your country?

No

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Additional Information

In the national context of Belarus, there are no indigenous peoples formally recognized under national legislation. While there are no legally recognized indigenous peoples or specifically defined "local communities" under national legislation, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources exists among the rural population and is transmitted from generation to generation. Such knowledge is preserved in particular within rural communities of Polesie, the Lake District (Poozerye), and other regions. It includes traditional agricultural practices, beekeeping, herbal medicine, ethnobotanical knowledge, as well as craft and agrarian traditions passed on through generations. This knowledge relates, inter alia, to the use of wild plant species, traditional crop varieties, medicinal plants, sustainable natural resource use, and agroecological practices. National ABS legislation regulates access to such traditional knowledge by identifying specific individuals as providers of traditional knowledge rather than recognizing collective community ownership. Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is regulated within the general ABS framework. Access requires prior agreement with the individual holder of such knowledge, as provided by national legislation.

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However, no separate legal status is granted to local communities as collective right holders.

If you answered No to question 34, please skip questions 35 to 41, and continue to Part IX.

Articles 6.2 and 6.3(f)

35. Do indigenous peoples and local communities have the established right to grant access to genetic resources according to your country's domestic law?

35.1. Does your country have measures in place with the aim of ensuring that the prior informed consent or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities is obtained for access to genetic resources?

35.2. Has your country set out criteria and/or process for obtaining prior informed consent or approval and involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities for access to genetic resources?

Article 7

36. Has your country taken measures with the aim of ensuring that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous peoples and local communities within your country is accessed with their prior informed consent, or their approval and involvement, and that mutually agreed terms have been established?

Article 12.1

37. Has your country considered indigenous peoples and local communities' customary laws, community protocols and procedures with respect to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in implementing the Protocol?

Article 12.2

38. Has your country established mechanisms, with the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities concerned, to inform potential users of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources about their obligations?

Article 12.3

39. Has your country supported the development by indigenous peoples and local communities, including women within these communities, of community protocols, minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms and model contractual clauses?

Article 12.4

40. Has your country endeavoured not to restrict the customary use and exchange of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge within and among indigenous peoples and local communities?

Additional information.

41. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Part IX - Contribution to conservation and sustainable use (Article 9) and benefits received

Article 9

42. Does your country encourage users and providers to direct benefits arising from the utilization of

genetic resources towards the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components?

Yes

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Additional Information

Under Article 25(3) of the Law of the Republic of Belarus “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3, 10% of monetary benefits derived from the utilization of genetic resources provided from the Republic of Belarus must be transferred to a special account of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus. Pursuant to Article 25(4) of the Law and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of December 20, 2024 No. 982, these funds are allocated specifically to activities related to the conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, including research and development activities.

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43. Has implementation of the Nagoya Protocol contributed to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in your country?

Yes

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Additional Information

The Law “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 (its enforcement) established a legal framework linking access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing with biodiversity conservation objectives.

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44.A. Has your country received monetary benefits from granting access to genetic resources for their utilization during the reporting period?

No

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44.A.1. Please select all those that apply

44.A.2. Please provide the amount of monetary benefits received during the reporting period (in United States dollars) from granting access to genetic resources for their utilization

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44.A.3. Additional information.

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44.B. Has your country received non-monetary benefits from granting access to genetic resources for their utilization during the reporting period?

Yes

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44.B.1. Please select all those that apply

Sharing of information, research results
Scientific collaboration and/or joint publications

44.B.2. Additional information.

Between November 2017 and February 2026, the Republic of Belarus has generated a total of 23 Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance on the ABS Clearing-House for GRs transfers under its national ABS legislation. Recipients of non-monetary benefits have primarily been academic and research institutions, including gene banks and university research centres in such countries as the United States, Canada, Cuba, France, UK, Austria, Germany, Lithuania, Tajikistan, New Zealand and China. These transfers have facilitated scientific research, shared access to research results and collaborative scientific outputs.

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45.A. Has your country received monetary benefits from granting access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources during the reporting period?

No

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45.A.1. Please select all those that apply

45.A.2. Please provide the amount of monetary benefits received during the reporting period (in United States dollars) from granting access traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources

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45.A.3. Additional information.

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45.B. Has your country received non-monetary benefits from granting access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources during the reporting period?

No

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45.B.1. Please select all those that apply

45.B.2. Additional information.

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Additional information.

46. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Part X - Transboundary Cooperation (Article 11)

Article 11.1

47. Has your country endeavoured to cooperate, with the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities concerned where applicable, in instances where the same genetic resources are found in situ within the territory of more than one Party?

No

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, there are no recorded cases requiring cooperation with other Parties under Article 11 of the Nagoya Protocol concerning genetic resources found in situ within the territory of more than one Party. National legislation on genetic resources management does not contain specific provisions regulating such

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cross-border situations since no practical cases have required their application to date. Furthermore, Belarus does not have legally recognized indigenous peoples, and national legislation does not establish a separate legal status for local communities as collective rights holders. Therefore, no formal involvement of indigenous peoples or local communities in cross-border ABS cooperation has occurred.

48. Has your country endeavoured to cooperate in instances where the same traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is shared by one or more indigenous peoples and local communities in several Parties?

Not applicable

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Additional Information

There are no legally recognized indigenous peoples in the Republic of Belarus. National legislation (the Law of the Republic of Belarus of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 “On Genetic Resources Management”) regulates traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources through the individual holders of such knowledge rather than through the collective rights of indigenous peoples or local communities. Legislation on genetic resources management does not include special provisions for transboundary cooperation in cases, where the same traditional knowledge is used by indigenous peoples or local communities in several Parties to the Convention.

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Additional information.

49. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Part XI - Model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and/or standards (Articles 19 and 20)

Article 19

50. Has your country encouraged other actors to develop, update and use model contractual clauses for mutually agreed terms?

No

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, national legislation on genetic resources management does not contain provisions encouraging other actors to develop, update or use model contractual clauses for mutually agreed terms. Article 15(1) "Essential Terms of a Genetic Resources Transfer Agreement" of the Law "On Genetic Resources Management" of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3 specifies main terms that Genetic Resources and/or Associated Traditional Knowledge Transfer Agreements (mutually agreed terms, dispute resolution provisions etc.) must include, but it does not provide for the development or promotion of model contractual clauses.

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Article 20

51. Has your country encouraged other actors to develop, update and use of codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices or standards?

No

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Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus has not adopted specific measures aimed at encouraging other actors to develop, update or use codes of conduct, guidelines, best practices or standards specifically related to access and benefit-sharing. The national ABS framework is primarily based on the Law of March 5, 2024 No. 356-3 "On Genetic Resources Management" and the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No. 982. These legal acts establish mandatory requirements for access, transfer, monitoring and benefit-sharing. However, they do not contain provisions encouraging stakeholders (such as research institutions, private companies or professional associations) to develop voluntary codes of conduct or sector-specific ABS guidelines. At present, implementation relies on statutory regulation rather than voluntary compliance instruments.

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Additional information.

52. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Part XII - Awareness-raising and capacity (Articles 21 and 22)

Article 21

53. Has your country taken measures to raise awareness of the importance of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and related access and benefit-sharing issues?

Yes

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Additional Information

Belarus has taken the following measures: 1. ABS NCC website abs.igc.by; 2. Holding awareness-raising events for potential users on a regular basis; 3. Taking part in national and international conferences; publication of corresponding articles in scientific journals and the public mass media; 3. Awareness-raising activities (workshops, publications, promo materials, business trips etc.) undertaken as part of the following projects: "Capacity Building for the Safeguarding of Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources and Legal Regulation of Access to it in the Republic of Belarus"; "Strengthening of human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Republic of Belarus"; "Support to Preparation of the Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Belarus"., Books, brochures and leaflets were distributed to stakeholders. Work is currently underway to develop a guide to access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge based on the Law "On Genetic Resources Management".

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53.1. Has your country adopted an awareness-raising strategy for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS?

No

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Additional Information

In the Republic of Belarus, no separate national awareness-raising strategy specifically dedicated to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing has been formally adopted pursuant to decision NP-1/9. However, awareness-raising activities are carried out within the framework of the Law "On Genetic Resources Management" of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3, and through ABS NCC activities. These include the dissemination of information via the official ABS NCC website, participation in conferences and workshops, stakeholder meetings, and publication of guidance materials related to genetic resources, traditional knowledge and ABS procedures.

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Article 22

54. Has your country taken measures to build and develop its capacity and strengthen its human resources and institutional capacities to effectively implement the Protocol?

Yes

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Additional Information

At the national and international levels, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection coordinates all activities carried out to build capacity and strengthen human and institutional resources for the effective implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. A central role in capacity building and strengthening human resources and institutional capacities is performed by the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (ABS NCC) established under national legislation. Responsibilities and functions of the ABS NCC are stated in the Law "On Genetic Resources Management." Main of them are as follows: to coordinate ABS implementation, monitor GRs utilization, provide guidance on access procedures, and raise awareness among stakeholders and the public. The ABS NCC regularly participates in and organizes scientific conferences, workshops and webinars that focus on genetic resources, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, biotechnology and ABS implementation, thus contributing to the capacity development of stakeholders and institutions in ABS-related matters. Main workshops / seminars held in 2018 - 2025: ♦ Workshop "25th Anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Protocols to the Convention as Instruments to Implement its Goals" (May 2018); ♦ Establishing measures to implement the Nagoya Protocol (jointly with IDLO (September 2018); ♦ A reporting event on the project progress "Strengthening of human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Republic of Belarus." Specifics of information collection and protection of traditional knowledge (October 2018); ♦ Subregional training workshop on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) under the Nagoya Protocol (together with Kazakhstan colleagues (as part of the global project (May 2018); ♦ UNDP-GEF Project Inception Workshop "Strengthening of Human Resources, Legal Frameworks and Institutional Capacities to Implement the Nagoya Protocol In The Republic of Belarus (February 2018); ♦ Workshop "Genetic resources of the Republic of Belarus: conservation and sustainable management" (under the Global UNDP-GEF project (November 2018); ♦ Reporting event "National legislation on access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with them. Liability measures for incompliance with the Nagoya Protocol provisions" (under the Global UNDP-GEF project (July 2018); ♦ Biodiversity in the System of Traditional Knowledge of Belarusians (under the interim Nagoya Protocol project (December 2019); ♦ "Man and nature: local knowledge of plants in the traditional culture of Belarusians" (under the Global UNDP-GEF project (March 2019); ♦ Preservation of Traditional Knowledge and Practices Associated with Genetic Resources: Strategies, Tactics, Key Actors (under

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the Global UNDP-GEF project (February 2019); ♦ Cooperation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the area of genetic resources' conservation (under the Global UNDP-GEF project, April 2019); ♦ "Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge – Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Belarus". Key takeaways of the Global UNDP-GEF Project (October 2019). Under the UNESCO project "Capacity Building for the Safeguarding of Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources and Legal Regulation of Access to it in the Republic of Belarus" (2023):

- Workshop: Wormwood, bitter grass: Traditional Knowledge and Modern Youth Projects.
- Two workshops: Interviews with traditional knowledge holders sharing the accumulated traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.
- Round table: Safeguarding of traditional knowledge and practices associated with genetic resources: strategy, tactics, and main actors.
- Round table: Final discussion of expert reports on traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources. Proposals and recommendations. Business trips were regularly carried out to national parks and reserves of the Republic of Belarus with events to raise awareness of the Nagoya Protocol and the legal regulation in Belarus of access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Key publications: Species Diversity of Medicinal Herbs Used by Belarusians (2023) (In Russian; English translation provided) Traditional Knowledge of Belarusians: from the Past to the Future (2023) (In Belarussian; English translation provided) Genetic Research in the Field of Biological Diversity (Article, 2024) Digital Sequence Information on Plant Genetic Resources (Article, 2020) (In Russian; non-binding translation into English provided) Nagoya Protocol for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (Article, 2020) (In Russian; non-binding translation into English provided) Ethics in Building Trust Between the Providers and Users of Genetic Resources. Article (2020); (In Russian; non-binding translation into English provided) Code of Ethics as a Tool to Protect the Rights of Holders Of Traditional Knowledge and Practices Related to Genetic Resources (Article, 2020); (In Russian; non-binding translation into English provided) Plants in the System of Traditional Knowledge of Belarusians. Monograph. T.V. Valodzina et al. (2019) (In Belarusian; a summary of key points is provided in English) Biological Diversity. Genetic Resources. Traditional Knowledge. Biosafety (Dictionary. Terms Used in the Convention on Biological Diversity, The Nagoya Protocol, The Cartagena Protocol & other Conventions, Protocols, Treaties, Agreements) (2019) (In Russian and English) Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge in Belarus. Legal Aspects and Capacity Building to Implement the Nagoya Protocol. Expert Reports (2019) (In Russian and English)

54.1. Please provide data, if available, on capacity-building activities carried out during the reporting period.

Number of people trained: (2500)

Number of workshops/trainings: (120)

Number of active capacity-building and development initiatives: (2)

54.2. Additional information on capacity-building activities carried out during the reporting period.

The ABS NCC participated in the development of the draft law and then the Law “On Genetic Resources Management.” The ABS NCC website also hosts such resources as an interactive database for GRs monitoring, national reports, procedural guidance documents, publications, informational leaflets and news items about workshops and webinars on ABS topics, serving to build the technical and institutional capacity of users, providers, and policymakers.

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55. Has your country taken measures to build and develop the capacity and strengthen human resources and institutional capacities of other Parties to effectively implement the Protocol?

Yes, to some extent

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Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus has not established dedicated programmes specifically aimed at systematic capacity building of other Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. However, Belarus has contributed to capacity development at the international level through knowledge-sharing activities. In particular, representatives of the ABS NCC participated in international webinars with Turkmenistan (2019) and Pakistan (2025) where Belarus shared its experience in the development and implementation of national ABS legislation and institutional arrangements.

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Additional information.

56. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Part XIII - Technology transfer, collaboration and cooperation (Article 23)

Article 23

57. Has your country collaborated and cooperated in technical and scientific research and development programmes related to ABS during the reporting period?

Yes

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Additional Information

Belarus collaborated and cooperated with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) on the technical and scientific research and training programme related to ABS (2018). The ABS NCC affiliated in 2025 with the sub-regional center located in the IUCN ECOSYSTEM in the context of work to be carried out by the CBD Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism.

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Additional information.

58. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus did not receive GEF grants for full-scale participation in the projects “Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (Central and Eastern Europe)” and “Support to Preparation of the First National Report on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.” Therefore, activities within the scope of these projects were limited to analytical research.

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Part XIV - Financial resources (Article 25) and resource mobilization

Article 25

59. Has your country made financial or other resources available to other Parties for the purpose of implementing the Protocol during the reporting period?

No

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Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus has not made financial or other resources available to other Parties specifically for the purpose of implementing the Nagoya Protocol. At the same time, Belarus has participated in international events and experience-sharing activities related to ABS implementation, including webinars and expert discussions.

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60. Has your country received financial or other resources from other Parties or financial institutions for the purpose of implementing the Protocol during the reporting period?

Yes

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Additional Information

Under three projects: ♦ UNESCO project No. 2240116046 under the Participation Programme for 2022-2023 “Capacity Building for the Safeguarding of Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources and Legal Regulation of Access to It in the Republic of Belarus” (29 November 2023–31 December 2023; 10,480 USD) ♦ ♦ Global UNDP-GEF project “Strengthening of human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol in the Republic of Belarus” (30 March 2018–30 December 2019; 350, 000 USD) ♦ UNEP-GEF project “Support to Preparation of the Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Belarus” (30 March 2018–30 June 2019; 20,000 USD)

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60.1. Please select all those that apply

From the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)
From financial institutions other than the GEF (UNEP, UNESCO)

60.2. Please provide the amount of resources received (in United States dollars) during the reporting period.

380480

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61. Has your country established a mechanism for budgetary allocations of funds for the operation of your national ABS framework?

Yes

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Additional Information

Under Article 6 of the Law “On Genetic Resources Management” of March 5, 2024, No. 356-3, financing of the ABS NCC is carried out through multiple sources, including: - Funds allocated to the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus from the republican budget for scientific and scientific and technical activities (on a continuous basis); - Revenues from paid services in the field of genetic resources management (additional legislative acts, formalizing access to genetic resources as an administrative procedure provided on a paid basis, will enter into force in 2026); - Funds received from the distribution of monetary benefits, including the 10% share transferred to a special account pursuant to Article 25(3)(2). It should be noted that, to date, there have been no cases of commercialization generating monetary benefits.

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62. Does your country have full-time staff working in functions directly related to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol? If so, how many?

Yes

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Additional Information

2 full-time staff: Head of the ABS NCC Lead translator/interpreter of the ABS NCC 2 part-time staff: Lead Programmer and Software Engineer

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62.1. Yes (please specify number of full-time staff):

Less than three

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63. Please provide information on experiences related to the mobilization of resources in support of the implementation of the Protocol.

The Republic of Belarus has undertaken a number of measures that illustrate how resources have been mobilized to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol:

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1. State budget support is provided to the ABS NCC through the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

The ABS NCC, established as a structural subdivision of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, is supported institutionally, and it actively coordinates information-sharing, stakeholder engagement and international cooperation, contributing to the sustained implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

2. Implementation of capacity-building and awareness-raising projects.

The ABS NCC website lists several projects focused on the strengthening of human resources, legal frameworks and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol (please see the projects section at <https://abs.igc.by/en/>).

These initiatives have mobilized expertise, materials and outreach tools (e.g. booklets, interviews with traditional knowledge holders, technical publications) to build practical capacity at multiple levels.

3. Engagement in multi-stakeholder events and collaboration.

The ABS NCC has participated in international scientific conferences, workshops and webinars (e.g., legal regulation and biodiversity conservation workshops, bilateral webinars on experience in implementing the Nagoya Protocol). These

events help generate technical dialogue, share lessons and attract interest and support from stakeholders.

4. Development of information and educational products as resources.

The ABS NCC compiles and publishes informational materials, including legislation, references, and specialized publications (e.g., booklets, recommendations, interactive monitoring database, reference DNA codes library), which serve as resources for stakeholders engaged in ABS implementation and raise awareness across sectors.

64. Please provide information on the status of funds mobilized in support of the implementation of the Protocol.

In the Republic of Belarus, resources mobilized to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol include institutional funding, project-based resources, planned future administrative revenues and revenue from monetary benefit-sharing.

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Additional information.

65. Please provide information on lessons learned, what worked well and why, difficulties, challenges and underlying causes, and any other information relevant to this section.

URL and website name

Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus did not receive GEF grants for full-scale participation in the projects “Global Biodiversity Framework Early Action Support (Central and Eastern Europe)” and “Support to Preparation of the First National Report on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.”

Due to a lack of sufficient financial resources, activities within these projects were limited to analytical research. No workshops, roundtables, or other dialogue platforms were held to ensure broad stakeholder and public participation in developing proposals to improve the effectiveness of the Kunming-Montreal Global Framework and the Nagoya Protocol.

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Part XV - Measures related to other international instruments (Article 4)

66. Is your country a Party to a specialized international access and benefit-sharing instrument?

No

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Additional Information

The Republic of Belarus is not a Party to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) or any other specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

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66.1. Has your country adopted measures to implement this instrument?

Part XVI - Optional additional information

67. Please provide any other relevant information that may not have been addressed elsewhere in the report.

URL and website name

68. Please provide any comments or suggestions that you may have regarding the format of this report or the reporting guidelines.

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[ABSCH-NR1-BY-286359-1](#)

Further Information

Questions about the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing or the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House may be directed to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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