



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



**The International Treaty**  
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES  
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

## **Item 17.2 of the Provisional Agenda**

### **SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY**

**Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October - 3 November 2017**

### **Cooperation with the Global Crop Diversity Trust**

#### **Executive Summary**

This document provides a summary of collaboration undertaken with the Global Crop Diversity Trust (GCDDT) since the Sixth Session of the Governing Body, particularly with regard to the Policy Guidance to the Global Crop Diversity Trust provided by the Governing Body through Resolution 8/2015. This document should be considered in conjunction with the document IT/GB-7/17/21, *Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust*.

#### **Guidance Sought**

The Governing Body is invited to review the activities and cooperation reported in this document and the *Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, and adopt a Resolution to provide further guidance, taking into account the elements contained in the *Appendix II* to this document.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;  
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Other documents can be consulted at <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/888771/>*



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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its First Session, the Governing Body entered into a Relationship Agreement with the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) and recognized it as an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty in relation to *ex situ* conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

2. The Constitution of the Crop Trust<sup>1</sup> and its Relationship Agreement with the Governing Body<sup>2</sup> provide that the Executive Board of the Crop Trust shall recognize the authority of the Governing Body to provide overall policy guidance to the Crop Trust on all matters within the purview of the International Treaty and submit regular reports on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body.

## II. INSTITUTIONAL MATTERS

3. In Resolution 8/2015, the Governing Body “invite[d] the Chair and the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body to continue facilitating the cooperation with the Chair and the Executive Board of the Trust following the practices established during the present biennium”. Accordingly, the interaction between the Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body and the Executive Board of the Crop Trust has been very positive and productive during the current biennium.

4. Upon invitation, the Chair and the Secretary of the Governing Body have continued to participate meetings of the Executive Board and the Donors’ Council of the Crop Trust. In their interventions, both of them emphasized the importance of close partnerships and necessary cooperation between the two institutions, especially to enhance the functioning of the Funding Strategy. Also, the Chair of the Crop Trust Executive Board and the Executive Director have attended the meetings of the Bureau and informed the Bureau of the latest developments in the Crop Trust’s activities.

### *Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*

5. According to the Constitution of the Crop Trust, four members of the Crop Trust Executive Board are appointed by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.<sup>3</sup> *Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, adopted at the Fifth Session of the Governing Body by Resolution 3/2013, provides that “[t]he Governing Body, unless it otherwise decides in future, authorizes its Bureau to carry out the selection of candidates for appointment as members to the Executive Board under Article 5 of the Constitution of the Global Crop Diversity Trust”.<sup>4</sup>

6. The table contained in Appendix I provides the members of the Executive Board appointed by the Governing Body. The first term of the four members of the Executive Board appointed for the tenure from 1 January 2014 came to an end in 2016. Three members expressed their wish to serve for a second term. In order to ensure the continued smooth and efficient functioning of the Executive Board, the Bureau agreed on the reappointment of those three members to serve for a second term, beginning on 1 January 2017. For the fourth member, the Bureau carefully reviewed and assessed the nominations received, taking into account key aspects of qualification and regional balance, and agreed to select a new member who was also endorsed by his regional group (Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) region). In accordance with the *Procedures*,<sup>5</sup> the Chair of the Governing Body

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<sup>1</sup> Articles 6(3).q, 7(2)(b) and (c)

<sup>2</sup> Articles 2 and 3

<sup>3</sup> Article 5(1)(a)

<sup>4</sup> B. 3.

<sup>5</sup> E. 16.

communicated the Bureau's decision to the Chair of the Donors' Council for consultation and, subsequently to the Chair of the Executive Board.

7. According to the Constitution of the Crop Trust, the term of members of the Executive Board is no more than three years as determined by the Executive Board and those members are eligible for reappointment to a second term, but shall not serve more than two successive terms.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, the three reappointed members will come to the end of their second tenure in 2019. Therefore, the Bureau of the Eighth Session of the Governing Body shall undertake procedures of selection and appointment of members of the Executive Board during 2019 for the term beginning on 1 January 2020.

### ***Annual Reports by the Executive Board to the Governing Body***

8. Article 3.(3) of the Relationship Agreement signed between the Governing Body and the Crop Trust provides that Executive Board of the Crop Trust shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Trust to the Governing Body.

9. The Governing Body meets biennially, and this makes it impracticable for the Executive Board to submit reports on an annual basis, as required by the Agreement. In order to address this situation, it is proposed that in intervening years when there is no Session of the Governing Body, such reports be received by the Bureau on behalf of the Governing Body, and be deemed to have fulfilled that obligation.

## **III. PROGRAMMATIC MATTERS**

### **A. Resource Mobilization**

10. The Crop Trust Endowment Fund has the target of USD 850 million, in order to support selected international and national crop collections of significance for global food security, and to finance the operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and the Crop Trust. Upon invitation, the Chair and the Secretary of the Governing Body participated in the Pledging Conference held in April 2016 in Washington D.C. In his statement, the Chair emphasized that the complementarity between the different elements of the Funding Strategy is critical to conserve and sustainably use crop diversity.

11. In March and June 2017, representatives of the Crop Trust attended the 8th and 9th meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy (the Committee) as well as the special events held back-to-back to the Committee. At these meetings, the Crop Trust presented its Results Framework and a new strategy to diversify funding sources, which were useful information in the context of the review of the Funding Strategy. The Committee has requested the Governing Body to continue inviting the Crop Trust to attend its meetings in the continuation of the work on the Funding Strategy.

### **B. Scientific and Technical Matters**

12. From 2012 to 2016, the funding for the CGIAR-managed international collections under Article 15 of the International Treaty was ensured at a stable, agreed level under the Genebanks CGIAR Research Programme (CRP), complementing the long-term grants of the Crop Trust. A similar arrangement for the next 6 years has been developed. Ambitious targets for the availability, safety duplication and data availability of the CGIAR-managed collections have been agreed, and Centers are investing in facilities, staff and operations to meet these targets by 2021. The Secretariat has been involved in the annual meetings of the managers of the international genebanks organized under the Genebanks CRP, and has also provided guidance and advice on such issues as use of the SMTA on an *ad hoc* basis. It also participated in the independent evaluation of the first phase of the programme.

13. There are other international or regional collections of germplasm that have signed agreements with the Governing Body under Article 15 of the International Treaty. In close consultation with the

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<sup>6</sup> Article 5(3) and (4)

Government of Costa Rica, the Secretariat is currently collaborating with the Crop Trust and various national institutions on an assessment of options for the future of the genebank of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE). The Secretariat expects to expand in the near future collaborative or mutually supporting activities with partners, and in particular the Crop Trust, in support of other germplasm collections held under Article 15, such as the one maintained by the South Pacific Community or the collections of coconut genetic materials maintained in Côte d'Ivoire and Papua New Guinea.

14. The Crop Trust and the Secretariat have continued cooperation in the project “Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change: Collecting, Protecting and Preparing Crop Wild Relatives” during this biennium.<sup>7</sup> The Crop Trust appreciates the participation of the Treaty Secretariat, as an observer, in the Advisory Group of the project, as well as the provision of technical and policy advice. The Crop Trust organized a meeting of all project partners shortly after the Sixth Session of the Governing Body in October 2015. The meeting was attended by more than 80 experts from more than 35 countries. The Crop Trust requested the Secretariat to lead a policy session that focused on the International Treaty and its Multilateral System for Access and Benefit-sharing.

15. The Crop Trust was invited to participate the Expert Meeting on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture<sup>8</sup> and the third meeting of the *Ad hoc* Technical Committee on Sustainable Use.<sup>9</sup> The Committee on Sustainable Use reaffirmed the relevance of the Supporting Initiatives of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA, which includes public private partnerships in pre-breeding, and the promotion of *ex-situ*, *in-situ* and on-farm conservation.

### C. Global Information System

16. In the context of the implementation of the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (GLIS), the Secretariat has continued collaborating with the Crop Trust on Genesys, through participation in the Genesys Advisory Committee as well and other meetings. The two Secretariats met in February 2017 to exchange information and plan some joint activities, including reviewing the technical options to facilitate the connection of Genesys database to the GLIS. The Crop Trust also participated in the two meetings of the Scientific Advisory Committee on GLIS during this biennium. The Committee advised further interactions and arrangements with the Crop Trust for the integration of Genesys into the GLIS as a source of information on *ex situ* collections, one of the four types of information sources identified by the Committee.

17. As part of the capacity development provided to Contracting Parties, the Secretariat invited the Crop Trust to deliver a presentation on Genesys at the Workshop “Strengthening National Capacities on Plant Genetic Resources in the context of the Global Information System of the International Treaty” held in May 2017 in Giza, Egypt, for countries in the Near East and North Africa Region. The Secretariat also provided information and presentations on the use of DOIs for a training workshop for genebank staff held in Malaysia in July 2017.

18. In the context of GLIS, representatives from the CGIAR Genebank Platform and the Excellence in Breeding Platform delivered a presentation at the second meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on GLIS in July 2017 on how they can benefit from the use of DOIs and the connection to GLIS to make their material more visible and to increase the value of PGRFA through the conservation and use chain of activities.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cwrdiversity.org/>

<sup>8</sup> Expert Meeting on the Toolbox for Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 19 - 21 July 2016, Volterra - Italy: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/414973/>

<sup>9</sup> Third meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Committee on Sustainable Use (ACSU-3), 24 - 25/10/2016 Vienna – Austria: <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/414990/>

#### **IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT**

19. The Governing Body is invited to review the activities and cooperation reported in this document and in the document, IT/GB-7/17/21, *Report from the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, and adopt a Resolution to provide further guidance, taking into account the elements contained in the *Appendix II* to this document.

*Appendix I*

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE GLOBAL CROP  
DIVERSITY TRUST APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL TREATY**

<b>2014-2016</b>	<b>2017-2019</b>	<b>2020-2022</b>
Prof. Gebisa Ejeta (Ethiopia)	Prof. Gebisa Ejeta (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	New member
Dr. Prem Lal Gautam (India)	Dr. Prem Lal Gautam (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	New member
Sir Peter Crane (UK)	Sir Peter Crane (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)	New member
Dr. Maurício Antônio Lopes (Brazil)	Dr. Márcio de Miranda Santos (Brazil)	Dr. Márcio de Miranda Santos 2 <sup>nd</sup> term  OR New member

## *Appendix II*

### **RESOLUTION XX/2017**

#### ***POLICY GUIDANCE TO THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST***

##### ***THE GOVERNING BODY,***

***Recalling*** that the Global Crop Diversity Trust (the Crop Trust) is an essential element of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty in relation to the *ex situ* conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

***Recalling*** that pursuant to Article 1(5) of the Crop Trust Constitution the Crop Trust shall operate in accordance with the overall policy guidance to be provided by the Governing Body of the International Treaty;

***Recalling*** that pursuant to the *Relationship Agreement*, the Executive Board of the Crop Trust shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body;

***Taking note*** of the Report from the Crop Trust, which addresses matters requested by Resolution 8/2015;

##### ***A. POLICY GUIDANCE***

1. ***Requests*** the Chair and the Secretary to inform the Executive Board of the Crop Trust on the decisions made by the Governing Body to update the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty, to which the Crop Trust is an essential element, and ***provides*** policy guidance to the following key areas:

##### ***I. Resource Mobilization***

2. ***Thanks*** governments and other donors that provided funds at the 2016 Pledging Conference for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund, which was an important milestone in the implementation of the Funding Strategy of the International Treaty and in particular towards enabling to secure long-term funding for collections held pursuant to Article 15 of the Treaty, with contributions pledged standing, as reported by the Crop Trust, at USD 313.9 million;

3. ***Welcomes*** the steps being taken by the Crop Trust towards a more diversified fundraising strategy that would rely more on funding from sources other than governments, and invites the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to transmit, once finalized, the fundraising strategy for the period of 2017 to 2022 to the Bureau of the Governing Body, for information to the Contracting Parties, and to the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy as a valuable input in updating the Funding Strategy, including in relation to the funding target for the Funding Strategy;

4. ***Invites*** the Crop Trust to continue to actively support the work of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy, including to develop the programmatic approach of the updated Funding Strategy;

5. ***Invites*** the Crop Trust to expand cooperation with the International Treaty on resource mobilization during the next biennium (2018-2019), in particular joint fundraising activities with the Secretariat, to enhance complementarities and synergies and to demonstrate how linkages between different elements of the Funding Strategy could be built in a concrete manner in the updated Funding Strategy;

6. *Invites* the Crop Trust to provide information, at the next Session of the Governing Body, on progress made in resource mobilization during the next biennium for the Crop Trust Endowment Fund as well as in relation to mobilization of project-based funds to support selected national genebanks in developing countries;

## **II. Scientific and Technical Matters**

7. *Welcomes* the Crop Trust' support provided during the current biennium for the further implementation of the International Treaty to enable long-term conservation and availability of crop diversity, in partnership with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and in support to regional and national genebanks;

8. *Invites* the Crop Trust to continue and expand cooperation with the Secretary, in accordance with Article 15.1(g) of the International Treaty, to mobilize technical support for the orderly maintenance of the collections of genetic resources held under Article 15 of the Treaty;

9. *Recommends* to the Crop Trust to further enhance its collaboration and complementarity with the International Treaty on scientific and technical matters, including improved linkages in the updating and implementation of the Crop Trust crop strategies and the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of PGRFA;

## **III. Global Information System**

10. *Welcomes* the close collaboration of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO, through WIEWS, in providing support to genebanks in developing countries for the upgrade of their information management systems and infrastructure;

11. *Invites* the Crop Trust to continue collaborating with the Secretariat on the implementation of the Global Information System (GLIS), inter alia, through the operations of Genesys and the support to GRIN-Global, the CGIAR Genebank Platform and other similar initiatives relevant to the implementation of Article 17;

12. *Encourages* the Crop Trust to support synergies and complementarities in its activities with the Programme of Work on the Global Information System, in recognition of the mandate and standard setting capacity of the Governing Body, in particular on DOIs and on characterization and evaluation data, including genomic and phenotypic data;

13. *Recommends* the Crop Trust to submit relevant information to the Secretary to enable further consideration by the Governing Body of any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the International Treaty;

14. *Further invites* the Crop Trust to appoint one expert to continue participating in the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Information System and provide regular updates on the implementation of its activities relevant to GLIS;

## **IV. Communication and Outreach**

15. *Recommends* the Crop Trust to jointly develop outreach and communication products with the International Treaty on the contribution of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular on the importance of implementing the International Treaty to reach Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals;



**B. OTHER**

16. ***Calls upon*** the Executive Board of the Crop Trust to submit its report annually on the activities of the Crop Trust to the Governing Body for its regular session and for an intervening year to the Bureau of the Governing Body, as provided in Article 3(3) of the Relationship Agreement, and ***decides*** that the submission, to the Bureau, of such reports shall constitute a fulfilment of the obligation under the Relationship Agreement;

17. ***Requests*** the Bureau of the Eight Session to carry out selection and appointment of members to the Executive Board during 2019 in accordance with the *Procedures for the Selection and Appointment of Members of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, so as to ensure the continued smooth and efficient functioning of the Executive Board.