



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda

Nineteenth Regular Session

Rome, 17–21 July 2023

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE: REVIEW AND UPDATE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction	1–3
II. Review of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019–2027 for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	4–32
III. Relevant developments in other fora	33–35
IV. New and emerging issues	36
V. Draft Strategic Plan 2023–2031 for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	37–41
VI. Guidance sought.....	42
<i>Appendix I: Draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031</i>	
<i>Annex 1. Multi-Year Programme of Work: Major Outputs and Milestones (2023–2031)</i>	
<i>Appendix II: Session planning for the Twentieth and Twenty-first Sessions of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Since 2007, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) has guided the Commission's work on the implementation of its mandate.¹ In 2013, the Commission adopted the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023, which, in addition to updating the MYPOW, specified the vision, mission and goals of the Commission. It also provided guidance with regard to its implementation, monitoring and future review.² In 2017 and 2019, the Commission overhauled the Strategic Plan, redefined its goals in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and identified five operative principles. The Strategic Plan 2019–2027 also identified activities to be undertaken in preparation for the Commission's Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Sessions.³
2. A detailed review of the implementation of the Commission's work was prepared for the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session.⁴ Another review and an update of the Strategic Plan is due at this Nineteenth Regular Session.
3. This document reviews progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019–2027 since the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. It contains the draft Strategic Plan 2023–2031, which spans the Commission's next five sessions, including its Nineteenth Regular Session. The draft Strategic Plan reflects comments and inputs received from the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups (Working Groups), as consolidated by the Bureau, for consideration by the Commission.

II. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2027 FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

4. During the reporting period, the Commission continued to implement, in a stepwise manner, its mandate, which was broadened in 1995 by the FAO Conference to cover all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture.⁵ The Commission also considered emerging issues, including digital sequence information (DSI), which was established by the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session as a new workstream.⁶ Since its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission has delivered on all pillars of its mandate and work cycle: country reporting; assessments; policy instruments; implementation; and monitoring and reporting.

Country reporting

5. The assessments of the state of the world's biodiversity and genetic resources for food and agriculture undertaken by FAO with the Commission's guidance follow a participatory and country-driven approach. They are based on country reports covering the state of biodiversity and genetic resources, their use, the drivers that contribute to their erosion, and the challenges and opportunities countries face in conserving and using them in a sustainable manner to contribute to food security and nutrition as well as the state of implementation of the Commission's Global Plans of Action (GPAs).⁷ The preparation of country reports through inclusive and participatory processes contributes to awareness raising at country level and often initiates or contributes to the development of national strategies or policies supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including genetic resources, for food and agriculture.

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

² CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

³ CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix F*.

⁴ CGRFA-16/17/22.

⁵ C 1995/REP, paragraph 69 (*Resolution 3/95*).

⁶ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 86.

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/policies/global-instruments/gpa/en/>

6. During the reporting period, the Commission oversaw the finalization of the first reports on *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (SoW BFA)⁸ and on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW AqGR).⁹ Ninety-one countries reported to FAO for the SoW BFA; 92 countries did so for the SoW AqGR.

7. During the reporting period the Commission also initiated country reporting for *The Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources* (SoW FGR-2) and *The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW PGR-3).

Assessments

8. In addition to overseeing the finalization of the SoW BFA and the SoW AqGR, the Commission, through its Strategic Plan, guided the preparation of the SoW FGR-2 and the SoW PGR-3. The draft SoW FGR-2 and the draft SoW PGR-3 have been reviewed this year by the relevant Working Groups; they form part of the documentation for this session of the Commission.¹⁰ At this session, the Commission will also consider the preparation of *The Third Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW AnGR-3).¹¹

9. Following the adoption of the Work Plan for the Sustainable Use and Conservation of Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in 2019,¹² the Commission considered, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, pollinators and biological control agents (BCAs) and biostimulants on the basis of two draft studies.¹³ The studies analyse the status and trends of conservation, use and access and benefit-sharing, based on previous work of the Commission and existing literature; map the most relevant regional and international organizations and other institutions; and identify the gaps and needs, and possibilities for the Commission and its Members to address them. As requested by the Commission,¹⁴ the two studies have been finalized, taking into account comments received, and published as background study papers. At this session, the Commission will consider draft studies on soil micro-organisms and invertebrates, with emphasis on bioremediation and nutrient-cycling organisms, and micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion.¹⁵ The Commission will also consider recommendations with regard to pollinators and BCA genetic resources.¹⁶

Policy instruments

10. Since its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission has prepared and agreed on multiple policy instruments, along with technical guidelines and guidance documents providing advice on their implementation. Key instruments include the following.

Biodiversity for food and agriculture

- **The Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**¹⁷ (FA BFA), negotiated and endorsed by the Commission in response to the findings of the SoW BFA, was adopted by the FAO Council at its 168th Session in December 2021.¹⁸ The FA BFA addresses biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole, creates a contextual framework for the

⁸ FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. J. Bélanger & D. Pilling, eds. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Assessments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN>

⁹ FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture assessments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5256EN>

¹⁰ CGRFA-19/23/7.1; CGRFA-19/23/8.1.

¹¹ CGRFA-19/23/10.3.

¹² CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*.

¹³ CGRFA-18/21/11.1/Inf.1; CGRFA-18/21/11.2/Inf.1.

¹⁴ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 80 & 86.

¹⁵ CGRFA-19/23/9.1; CGRFA-19/23/9.2.

¹⁶ CGRFA-19/23/9.3.1; CGRFA-19/23/9.3.2.

¹⁷ FAO. 2022. *Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

¹⁸ CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

coherent and consistent implementation of the GPAs and aims to improve the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity for food and agriculture, including associated biodiversity and wild foods, as a basis for food security, nutrition and health, sustainable food and agriculture, and poverty reduction and livelihoods. The FA BFA presents a set of 57 integrated and interlinked actions organized into three strategic priority areas: characterization, assessment and monitoring; management (sustainable use and conservation); and institutional frameworks.

Animal genetic resources

- In 2017, the Commission prepared, and the FAO Conference adopted, in response to the SoW AnGR-2 and the review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (GPA AnGR) the resolution “**Reaffirming the world’s commitment to the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.**”¹⁹
- In 2019, the Commission endorsed the guidelines on **Developing sustainable value chains for small-scale livestock producers**,²⁰ a practical development tool that implements the sustainable food value chain framework with a focus on small-scale livestock producers. The sustainable food value chain framework not only addresses questions concerning the competitiveness, inclusion and empowerment of small-scale producers but also incorporates the cross-cutting issues that are increasingly embedded in development projects. The guidelines take the user through the various steps of value chain development, highlighting the particularities of the smallholder livestock sector, such as multifunctionality, specific production cycles and food safety issues.
- In 2021, the Commission took note of two practical guides and requested FAO to finalize and disseminate them and to encourage countries to make full use of them according to their specific needs. The practical guide on **Innovations in cryoconservation of animal genetic resources**²¹ aims to support countries in the *in vitro* conservation of their breeds and to facilitate the adoption of recent technological innovations. The practical guide on **Genomic characterization of animal genetic resources**²² updates and complements the 2011 FAO guidelines on **Molecular genetic characterization of animal genetic resources**.²³

Aquatic genetic resources

- **The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**²⁴ (GPA AqGR), as approved by the Eighteenth Regular Session of the Commission, was adopted by the FAO Council in December 2021²⁵ and is now available in all UN languages. The GPA AqGR aims to optimize the contribution of AqGR to food security and the alleviation of poverty by providing a framework for action at global, regional and national levels for promoting the conservation, sustainable use and development of AqGR. The GPA AqGR presents 21 strategic priorities

¹⁹ C 2017/Rep, Annex D, Resolution 3/2017.

²⁰ FAO. 2019. *Developing sustainable value chains for small-scale livestock producers*. G. Leroy & M. Fernando, eds. FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines No. 21. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5717EN>

²¹ Boes, J., Boettcher, P. & Honkatukia, M., eds. 2023. *Innovations in cryoconservation of animal genetic resources – Practical guide*. FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines, No. 33. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3078en>

²² Ajmone-Marsan, P., Colli, L., Ginja, C., Kantanen J. & Lenstra, J.A., eds. 2023. *Genomic characterization of animal genetic resources*. FAO Animal Production and Health Guidelines No. 32. Rome, FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3079en>

²³ FAO. 2011. *Molecular genetic characterization of animal genetic resources*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/20b9d938-0b39-544c-9253-a855b5762ddc/>

²⁴ FAO. 2022. *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9905en>

²⁵ CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

clustered into the following four priority areas: inventory, characterization and monitoring; conservation and sustainable use of AqGR; development of AqGR for aquaculture; and policies, institutions and capacity building.

Forest genetic resources

- In 2019, the Commission endorsed the **Voluntary Guidelines for Preparing a National Strategy for Forest Genetic Resources**.²⁶ The guidelines aim to support countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA FGR) and to promote the integration of forest genetic resources into other relevant national instruments and strategies.

Plant genetic resources

- In 2017, the Commission endorsed the **Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Crop Wild Relatives and Wild Food Plants**.²⁷ In 2019, it endorsed the **Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces**.²⁸ The guidelines are useful tools for development practitioners, researchers, students and policymakers who work on the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives, wild food plants and farmers' varieties/landraces. They contribute directly to Priority Activity 16 of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Second GPA PGR), which aims to ensure effective monitoring of plant genetic diversity and of the drivers of genetic erosion and to implement appropriate remedial or preventive action.
- In 2021, the Commission took note of three practical guides for the implementation of the 2013 **Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**²⁹ (Genebank Standards) and requested FAO to finalize and disseminate them.³⁰ The guides address: (i) the conservation of orthodox seeds in seed genebanks;³¹ (ii) the conservation in field genebanks;³² and (iii) the conservation of plant genetic resources via *in vitro* culture.³³ The practical guides present the information contained in the Genebank Standards in a format that details the actions of the genebank workflow in a sequential manner and thereby facilitate more widespread application of the Genebank Standards. They aim to contribute to an efficient and sustainable system of *ex situ* conservation. Genebanks may use the activities outlined in these guides as a basis for the development of standard operating procedures and quality-management systems for conserving germplasm collections, defining in detail how to carry out each activity.

Microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources

- In response to the draft studies on pollinators and BCAs and biostimulants, the Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to maintain momentum in addressing the various

²⁶ CGRFA-17/19/10.3.

²⁷ FAO. 2017. *Voluntary guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of crop wild relatives and wild food plants*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/8f366de9-08a8-42ad-aae1-4f8f6822420e/>

²⁸ <https://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1263074/>

²⁹ FAO. 2013. *Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/7b79ee93-0f3c-5f58-9adc-5d4ef063f9c7/>

³⁰ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 100.

³¹ FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation of orthodox seeds in seed genebanks*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0021en>

³² FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation in field genebanks*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0023en>

³³ FAO. 2022. *Practical guide for the application of the Genebank Standards for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Conservation via in vitro culture*. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0025en>

functional groups of micro-organisms and invertebrates, and to collaborate with relevant expert groups in the drafting of recommendations for further consideration by the Commission. The Commission will therefore consider policy recommendations for biological control agents and biostimulants and for pollinators at its Nineteenth Regular Session.³⁴

Access and benefit-sharing

- In 2019, the Commission endorsed **explanatory notes to the Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-Sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ABS Elements)**³⁵ and requested FAO to disseminate the ABS Elements with the explanatory notes included.³⁶

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- In 2021, the Commission prepared, and the Council adopted, Resolution 1/168 on **The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**,³⁷ which stresses the need for FAO, the Commission and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Treaty) to contribute, within their mandates, to the development and implementation of the document succeeding the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including its Aichi Biodiversity Targets: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF). The resolution also stresses the importance of the sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

Implementation of the Commission's work programme and instruments

11. Following a request by the Commission,³⁸ FAO established, in 2017, a cross-sectoral multidonor trust fund for the implementation of the Commission's MYPOW, covering all outputs and milestones. The project GCP/GLO/841/MUL has so far received contributions from Canada, Norway, the Netherlands and Switzerland. In 2020, Norway decided to channel its support to the MYPOW through the Flexible Multi-Partner Mechanism (FMM) (GCP/GLO/152/FMM) and, in 2023, through the Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC) Mechanism.

12. The Commission Secretariat also continued to receive bilateral support for specific activities. During the reporting period, sectoral and cross-sectoral activities were generously funded by France, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.

13. In 2019, the Commission adopted the **Funding Strategy for the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (Funding Strategy)**³⁹ and encouraged countries to actively mainstream forest genetic resources into larger and holistic actions on sustainable forest management, including agroforestry and forest strategies, and forest-based climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, as well as to identify needs for specific and strategic actions on forest genetic resources. The purpose of the Funding Strategy is to mobilize financial resources and strengthen international cooperation to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to implement the GPA FGR, and to contribute to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international commitments on forests.

³⁴ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 93.

³⁵ FAO. 2019. *ABS Elements: Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture – with explanatory notes*. FAO, Rome. <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA5088EN/>

³⁶ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 16.

³⁷ CL 168/REP, *Appendix E*.

³⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 85.

³⁹ CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix D*.

14. The Funding Strategy joined a funding strategy adopted by the Commission in 2009⁴⁰ (and revised in 2013⁴¹) to generate funds for the implementation of the GPA AnGR. For the latter, a FAO Trust Account was established, which, however, received no voluntary contributions during the reporting period.

15. Extra-budgetary funds remain critical for the implementation of the Commission's work programme and for the implementation of the various instruments the Commission has agreed upon and Commission Members have committed to implement. The implementation of these instruments remains a key challenge for many Commission Members. While the Commission's work has undoubtedly had an impact at country level, as demonstrated in many country reports, the impact of the Commission's policy instruments could be vastly increased through improved support, capacity building, technology transfer and provision of financial resources.

Monitoring genetic resources and reporting on implementation

16. The Commission monitors the implementation of the GPAs using targets and indicators and, in the case of the Second GPA PGR, higher-order composite indices, as reviewed and agreed by the Commission.

17. In the case of plant genetic resources, the Commission adopted a set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Second GPA PGR in 2014 and revised them in 2019. It further agreed on two reporting rounds. Key results of the first round of country reporting were provided at the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session in the document *Assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012–2014*⁴² and in summarized form in the document *Summary assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012–2014*.⁴³ These assessments, together with the results of the second reporting round (2014–2019), provide the basis for the SoW PGR-3.

18. In the case of animal genetic resources, the Commission endorsed indicators for assessing the implementation of the GPA AnGR and indicators for assessing the state of animal genetic resources themselves. Reports on the status and trends of animal genetic resources were provided to the Commission's Sixteenth,⁴⁴ Seventeenth,⁴⁵ Eighteenth,⁴⁶ and Nineteenth⁴⁷ Regular Sessions. A synthesis progress report on the implementation by countries of the GPA AnGR was presented to the Commission in 2021.⁴⁸

19. In the case of forest genetic resources, the Commission adopted, in 2017, targets, indicators and verifiers for monitoring the implementation of the GPA FGR.⁴⁹ It also adopted a schedule for monitoring the GPA FGR.⁵⁰ Two years later, the *First report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources* was presented to the Commission.⁵¹ The targets, indicators and verifiers are also being used in the gathering of data for the preparation of the SoW FGR-2.

20. Targets and indicators for aquatic genetic resources are currently under development, and draft indicators, as reviewed by the Fourth Session of the Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WG AqGR) are presented to this Session of the Commission.⁵²

⁴⁰ CGRFA-12/09/Report, *Appendix C*.

⁴¹ CGRFA-14/13/Report *Appendix G.2*.

⁴² CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2.

⁴³ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1.

⁴⁴ CGRFA-16/17/Inf.15.

⁴⁵ CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.4.

⁴⁶ CGRFA-18/21/10.2/Inf.6.

⁴⁷ CGRFA-19/23/10.2/Inf.2.

⁴⁸ CGRFA-18/21/10.2/Inf.5.

⁴⁹ CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1; 2 CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendices A & B*.

⁵⁰ CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

⁵¹ CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.1.

⁵² CGRFA-19/23/11.2.2.

21. The indicators developed by FAO with the Commission's guidance and related information collected by FAO from countries on the status of genetic resources and the implementation of the GPAs are increasingly being used for monitoring the implementation of other instruments, in particular the SDGs. Annual reports have been submitted by the Chair of the Commission to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. In 2017 the Commission prepared, and the Council adopted, Resolution 4/2017 on *The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Contribution to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*.⁵³

Information systems

22. FAO develops and maintains the information systems used for monitoring the implementation of the GPAs. These global information systems are used by Members for regular reporting on their efforts to implement the GPAs and for monitoring the status and trends of genetic resources. Online information systems have been operational for some time for plant genetic resources (World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – WIEWS)⁵⁴ and animal genetic resources (Domestic Animal Diversity Information System – DAD-IS),⁵⁵ and these are continually being improved. The prototype of AquaGRIS, a global information system for AqGR, became operational in 2022.⁵⁶ The prototype includes information on farmed types. A full version, anticipated for release in 2023, will also include information on wild stocks. An information system for forest genetic resources is currently under development.

Arrangements supporting the implementation of the MYPOW

23. A number of new arrangements have helped the Commission to deliver during all phases of its work cycle:

Subsidiary bodies and national focal points

24. The Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, decided that the Ad Hoc Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture should become a regular Intergovernmental Technical Working Group in accordance with Article 3(i) of its Statutes.⁵⁷

25. Model terms of reference for National Focal Points for plant, aquatic and forest genetic resources and for biodiversity for food and agriculture and for National Coordinators for animal genetic resources were adopted at the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session.⁵⁸ Terms of reference for National Focal Points to the Commission had already been agreed at the Commission's Fifteenth Regular Session.⁵⁹

26. In 2017, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission decided to hold a first meeting of the Group of National Focal Points for Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (NFP BFA Group). Following the first meeting of the NFP BFA Group in 2018, a second meeting (in two parts) and a further, informal meeting were convened, respectively, in March, May and August 2021, to negotiate the FA BFA.

Re-organization of the Commission's intersessional work

27. The Commission faces the governance challenge of needing both to facilitate cross-sectoral work on biodiversity for food and agriculture and to strengthen its other work, and that of its subsidiary bodies, including work on micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture.

28. The Commission, at its last session, commenced discussions on various options for the future organization of the Commission's intersessional work, specifically on biodiversity for food and

⁵³ C 2017/Rep, Annex E, Resolution 4/2017.

⁵⁴ <https://www.fao.org/wiews/en/>

⁵⁵ <https://www.fao.org/dad-is/en/>

⁵⁶ <https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/home>

⁵⁷ CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 51.

⁵⁸ CGRFA-18/21/Report, *Appendix E*.

⁵⁹ CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix H*.

agriculture and micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources. It will continue these discussions at its Nineteenth Regular Session.⁶⁰

Special information seminars

29. During the reporting period, the Commission continued to organize special information seminars preceding its regular sessions, either on topics relevant to the respective session or on topics of particular interest to FAO and the Commission.

Partnerships

30. The Commission has continued to strengthen its collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular in the context of the preparation of the KM GBF. In February 2022, a webinar co-organized by the Commission and the Secretariat of the CBD introduced the FA BFA and discussed its implementation and possible contribution to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.⁶¹

31. The Commission has continued to seek synergies, and strengthen its collaboration, with the Treaty. In March 2021, for example, the First International Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture⁶² was held jointly with the Treaty and the Global Crop Diversity Trust as part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to facilitate collaboration among practitioners involved in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources. The Global Workshop on Digital Sequence Information and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, held in November 2022,⁶³ was organized in collaboration with the CBD, the Treaty, the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Genebank Initiative. A webinar on the role of crop wild relatives in improving the adaptive capacity of agricultural systems⁶⁴ was organized, in collaboration with the Treaty, in February 2023.

Conclusions

32. During the reporting period the Commission has continued to make progress in the stepwise implementation of its broadened mandate. With the recent adoption of the GPA AqGR and the FA BFA, the Commission has extended its policy portfolio to aquatic genetic resources and the integrated management of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The Strategic Plan 2019–2027, including the MYPOW, has proven to be an effective planning tool for the organization and coordination of the Commission's multiple workstreams and for coordinating the Commission's partnerships and collaboration with other international instruments and organizations. The Commission delivered on each of its workstreams, as planned, even if sometimes at slightly different points in time, which in the case of an intergovernmental body and given the complex international framework within which the Commission operates is not too surprising. With the adoption of the FA BFA, the Commission has also demonstrated its competence and leading role with respect to biodiversity for food and agriculture in the global biodiversity policy landscape.

III. RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER FORA

33. A number of developments that have taken place in other fora since the completion of the MYPOW 2007–2016 need to be taken into consideration in the preparation of the Strategic Plan 2023–2031. With considerable support from the Commission Secretariat, the FAO Council adopted, at its 163rd Session in 2019, the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural

⁶⁰ CGRFA-19/23/13.

⁶¹ <https://www.cbd.int/article/pre-geneva-2022-webinars/webinar-feb-17>

⁶² FAO. 2022. *Proceedings of the First International Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Technical consultation on in situ conservation and on-farm management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture – 29–30 March 2021*, Rome, Italy. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3716en>

⁶³ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi-workshop-2022/en/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/resources/news/detail-events/en/c/1629970/>

Sectors (Mainstreaming Strategy).^{65,66} The adoption of the Mainstreaming Strategy was followed in 2021 by the approval of the 2021–2023 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors (Action Plan).^{67,68} The Commission, through its NFP BFA Group, was consulted on the draft Action Plan in the course of 2021.⁶⁹ According to the Action Plan, new developments and agreements, including those reached under the CBD, the Commission and the Treaty, as well as experiences with the implementation of the Mainstreaming Strategy and the Action Plan, should be taken into consideration in the further development of the Action Plan.

34. The Mainstreaming Strategy and the Action Plan aim to: (i) mainstream biodiversity across FAO's policies, programmes and activities; (ii) enhance the capacity of Members to mainstream biodiversity across their agricultural sectors; (iii) ensure global recognition of the important role of biodiversity for food security and nutrition; and (iv) strengthen coordination and delivery of FAO's work on biodiversity through enhanced technical capacity and better coordination.⁷⁰ The GPAs and, particularly, the FA BFA, play a key role in FAO's efforts to support its Members in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors. The progress report on the implementation of the Mainstreaming Strategy and the Action Plan, together with the Action Plan for 2024–2027,⁷¹ are available for review by the Commission.

35. The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD adopted the KM GBF at its 15th meeting, held in December 2022. The KM GBF replaced the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The implications of the KM GBF for the Commission's work and for Commission Members in implementing the GPAS and the FA BFA are further explored in the document *Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*.⁷²

IV. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

36. Following similar practices in other fora, the Commission may wish to consider agreeing on a procedure for the identification of new and emerging issues and for the review of proposals. The Working Groups and/or Commission Members could be invited at regular intervals to submit proposals on new and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including genetic resources, for food and agriculture, and the Commission could review these proposals and add them to the MYPOW, as appropriate. The addition of a new workstream addressing new and emerging issues would also allow the Commission to address issues, in particular cross-sectoral issues, without having to establish separate new workstreams.

V. DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2031 FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

37. The draft Strategic Plan 2023–2031, which would replace the previous versions of the Strategic Plan and the MYPOW, has the objective of:

⁶⁵ CL 163/REP, paragraph 10 g.

⁶⁶ FAO. 2020. *FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>

⁶⁷ CL 166/REP, paragraph 24 h.

⁶⁸ FAO. 2021. *2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en>

⁶⁹ CGRFA/NFP-BFA-2/21/3; CGRFA/NFP-BFA-2.1/21/Report; PC 130/7 – Information Note - March 2021, 2021-23 Action Plan for the Implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors, V Monitoring and review.

⁷⁰ 2021-23 Action plan for the implementation of the FAO strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors, paragraph 10.

⁷¹ CGRFA-19/23/6.2.

⁷² CGRFA-19/23/6.1.

- making it possible for the Commission to advise FAO systematically on all matters related to biodiversity, including genetic resources, for food and agriculture, in the context of recommending priorities for the work of the Organization;
- helping to programme support for the further implementation of the Commission's instruments, including FAO's support to countries in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors and implementing the KM GBF; and
- facilitating cooperation with the Treaty, particularly in the implementation of the supporting components of the Treaty that are overseen by the Commission, and with other international instruments and organizations.

38. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session was delayed by six months and took place after, rather than, as per usual practice, prior to the FAO Conference. In order to catch up with the FAO Conference schedule, the Commission should aim to convene, in 2025, its Twentieth Regular Session prior to the Forty-fourth session of the FAO Conference.

39. A few adjustments to the main body of the Strategic Plan are suggested, as reflected in *Appendix I* to this document:

- The Mission and the Goals of the Strategic Plan, reflecting the FA BFA, now refer to “genetic resources for food and agriculture and other components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture” rather than to “genetic resources for food and agriculture”.
- The Rationale of the Strategic Plan, in describing the context of the work of the Commission, now refers to the KM GBF and the Mainstreaming Strategy.
- In paragraph 2 of the Rationale, the Strategic Plan now refers to “conservation, sustainable use and development” instead of to “conservation and sustainable use.”⁷³

40. The MYPOW table contained in Annex 1 to the Strategic Plan, which spans five sessions, including the Nineteenth Regular Session, has been updated and complemented, including through the following proposed changes and additions:

- **Animal genetic resources**
As recommended by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WG AnGR), the presentation of the SoW AnGR-3, previously foreseen for the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session, has been postponed to the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session; the review and potential update of the GPA AnGR are foreseen for the same session.⁷⁴
- **Aquatic genetic resources**
As recommended by the WG AqGR, the presentation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW AqGR-2) is scheduled for the Commission's Twenty-second Regular Session, and the review of the GPA AqGR for the subsequent session.⁷⁵
- **Forest genetic resources**
Following the review of the GPA FGR in 2025, a review of the implementation of the GPA FGR is foreseen for the Twenty-second Regular Session.
- **Microorganism and invertebrate genetic resources**
In line with the Commission's Work Plan for the Sustainable Use and Conservation of Microorganism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,⁷⁶ the MYPOW foresees consideration of dietary components of food/feed and food processing and agro-

⁷³ CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 40.

⁷⁴ CGRFA-19/23/10.1, paragraph 49.

⁷⁵ CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 40.

⁷⁶ CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix E*.

industrial processes for the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session and a review of the Commission's work on this stream for the Twenty-second Regular Session.

– **Plant genetic resources**

In line with the Commission's request,⁷⁷ the review of the Second GPA PGR has been postponed to the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session. As recommended by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (WG PGR), a review of the WIEWS Reporting Tool has been added to the Twenty-first Regular Session.⁷⁸

– **Biodiversity for food and agriculture**

The Second Report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture (SoW BFA-2), previously foreseen for the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session, has been moved to the Twenty-second Regular Session in order to maintain a ten-year interval between global assessments. As requested by the WG PGR, a first review of the FA BFA has been scheduled for the Twentieth Regular Session.

– **Access and benefit-sharing**

The workstream on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) has been updated in line with the decisions of the Commission at its last session.⁷⁹

– **Biotechnologies**

The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (WG FGR) and the WG AqGR proposed that the work on biotechnologies should be reviewed at the Twenty-first Regular Session. In the interest of a more balanced distribution of work across the different sessions, the Bureau proposes to move this review to the Twenty-second Regular Session.⁸⁰

– **Digital sequence information**

It is proposed to consider recent developments on DSI at the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session and to review the work on DSI and its implications for the conservation and sustainable use of, and ABS for, GRFA at the Twenty-third Regular Session.

– **Climate change**

In line with the proposed schedule for work on climate change,⁸¹ the review of the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*, originally scheduled for the current session, has been postponed to the next session of the Commission. As recommended by the WG AqGR, work on climate change will be reviewed only at the Commission's Twenty-second Regular Session.⁸²

– **Nutrition and health**

No further major outputs are foreseen for the workstream on nutrition and health after the Commission's Nineteenth Regular Session. However, the WG PGR did not reach consensus on a phase-out of the workstream.⁸³

– **New and emerging issues**

A new workstream on "new and emerging issues" has been added, to allow the Commission, if it so decides, to identify ad hoc, through a procedure to be agreed on, topics of particular interest and plan their consideration in a coherent manner as part of the MYPOW.

41. In light of the Commission's in-session deliberations, further changes or additions to the MYPOW may become necessary.

⁷⁷ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 109.

⁷⁸ CGRFA-19/23/7.1, paragraph 47.

⁷⁹ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 23–31.

⁸⁰ CGRFA-19/23/8.1, paragraph 35; CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 42.

⁸¹ CGRFA-19/23/3.

⁸² CGRFA-19/23/11.1, paragraph 42.

⁸³ CGRFA-19/23/7.1, paragraph 48.

VI. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

42. The Commission may wish to:

- (i) take note of the progress made since the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission in the implementation of the MYPOW;
- (ii) review and revise, as appropriate, the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031, as given in *Appendix I* to this document;
- (iii) request the Secretariat to propose options for a procedure for the ad hoc identification of new and emerging issues for inclusion into the MYPOW, for review by the Working Groups and the Commission at their next sessions;
- (iv) request the Secretariat to provide, in future progress reports on/reviews of the Strategic Plan, an overview of activities to be carried out in preparation for the forthcoming two sessions, as provided in *Appendix II* to this document, for the information of the Commission; and
- (v) invite donors to contribute to the cross-sectoral multidonor trust fund for the MYPOW.

APPENDIX I

**DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2019–2027)(2023–2031)**

<p align="center">STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2019–2027)</p>	<p align="center">DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2019–2027) (2023–2031)</p>
<p align="center">VISION</p> <p>Valuing and conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations.</p>	<p align="center">VISION</p> <p>Valuing and conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations.</p>
<p align="center">MISSION</p> <p>Cognizant that genetic resources for food and agriculture are a common concern of all countries, in that all countries depend on genetic resources for food and agriculture that originated elsewhere, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation and sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.</p>	<p align="center">MISSION</p> <p>Cognizant that genetic resources for food and agriculture and other components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture are a common concern of all countries, in that all countries depend on genetic resources for food and agriculture that originated elsewhere, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) strives to halt the loss of genetic resources for food and agriculture and other components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture, and to ensure world food security and sustainable development by promoting their conservation and sustainable use, including exchange, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.</p>
<p align="center">GOALS</p> <p>In line with its mission, the Commission's Goals are cross-sectoral and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The cross-sector goals build on the global assessments prepared under its guidance, the strategic priority areas, long-term goals and targets of the Commission's global action plans on plant, animal and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture and other Commission activities taken in response to the global assessments.</p>	<p align="center">GOALS</p> <p>In line with its mission, the Commission's Goals are cross-sectoral and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The cross-sector goals build on the global assessments prepared under its guidance, the strategic priority areas, long-term goals and targets of the Commission's sectoral Global Plans of Action, the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture global action plans on plant, animal and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture and other</p>

<p>Goal 1: Sustainable use: Promote the sustainable use and development of genetic resources for food and agriculture and, more generally, all biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture, to increase production for world food security and sustainable development.⁸⁴</p> <p>Goal 2: Conservation: Maintain the diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture.⁸⁵</p> <p>Goal 3: Access and benefit-sharing: Promote appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.⁸⁶</p> <p>Goal 4: Participation: Facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in decision-making.⁸⁷</p>	<p>Commission activities taken in response to the global assessments.</p> <p>Goal 1: Sustainable use: Promote the sustainable use and development of genetic resources for food and agriculture and, more generally, all biodiversity relevant to food and agriculture, to increase production for world food security and sustainable development.⁸⁸</p> <p>Goal 2: Conservation: Maintain the diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture and other components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture.⁸⁹</p> <p>Goal 3: Access and benefit-sharing: Promote appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.⁹⁰</p> <p>Goal 4: Participation: Facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in decision-making.⁹¹</p>
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⁸⁴ Goal 1 supports SGD 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality; SDG Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics; and SDG Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

⁸⁵ Goal 2 supports SDG 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

⁸⁶ Goal 3 supports SDG 2.5 and SDG 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

⁸⁷ Goal 4 supports SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

⁸⁸ Goal 1 supports SGD 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality; SDG Target 14.4: By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics; and SDG Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

⁸⁹ Goal 2 supports SDG 2.5: By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

⁹⁰ Goal 3 supports SDG 2.5 and SDG 15.6: Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.

⁹¹ Goal 4 supports SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES	OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES
<p style="text-align: center;">I. RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2019–2027)</p> <p>1. Biodiversity for food and agriculture is among the Earth’s most important resources. Crops, livestock, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates – thousands of species and their genetic variability – make up the web of biodiversity upon which the world’s food production depends. Biodiversity for food and agriculture contributes to food security and nutrition and sustainable livelihoods and, through the provision of regulating and supporting ecosystem services, underpins the natural potential for adaptation to ever-changing socio-economic and environmental dynamics, such as population growth, dietary preferences, nutritional needs and climate change.</p> <p>2. Aware of the importance of each component of biodiversity for food and agriculture to global food security and nutrition, the Commission aims to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations.</p> <p>3. Since 2007, the Commission has been operating under a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).⁹² The <i>Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023</i> embraces the MYPOW and contains the Commission’s vision, mission and goals. The Commission’s goals of the <i>Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2018–2027</i> build on the “State of the World” global assessment reports, and the strategic priority areas, long-term goals and targets of the global action plans and other policy responses to these assessments, as well as the established indicators and monitoring procedures for assessing the global action plans’ and the implementation of other instruments agreed.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I. RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2019–2027) (2023–2031)</p> <p>No proposed changes</p> <p>1. Biodiversity for food and agriculture is among the Earth’s most important resources. Crops, livestock, aquatic organisms, forest trees, micro-organisms and invertebrates – thousands of species and their genetic variability – make up the web of biodiversity upon which the world’s food production depends. Biodiversity for food and agriculture contributes to food security and nutrition and sustainable livelihoods and, through the provision of regulating and supporting ecosystem services, underpins the natural potential for adaptation to ever-changing socio-economic and environmental dynamics, such as population growth, dietary preferences, nutritional needs and climate change.</p> <p>2. Aware of the importance of each component of biodiversity for food and agriculture to global food security and nutrition, the Commission aims to ensure the conservation, and sustainable use and development of genetic resources for food and agriculture, access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, for present and future generations.</p> <p>3. Since 2007, the Commission has been operating under a Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).⁹³ The <i>Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014–2023 2023–2031</i> embraces the MYPOW and contains the Commission’s vision, mission and goals. The Commission’s goals of the <i>Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2018–2027 2023–2031</i> build on the “State of the World” global assessment reports, and the strategic priority areas, long-term goals and targets of the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Commission’s global action plans and other policy responses to these assessments, as well as the established indicators</p>

⁹² CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

⁹³ CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

<p>4. This Strategic Plan supersedes and replaces all previous versions of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and of strategic plans. It includes in <i>Annex 1</i> the MYPOW's major outputs and milestone for the forthcoming five regular sessions of the Commission and in <i>Annex 2</i> more detailed plans for the next two sessions of the Commission.</p>	<p>and monitoring procedures for assessing the global action plans' and the implementation of other instruments agreed, including within the implementation of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.</p> <p>4. This Strategic Plan supersedes and replaces all previous versions of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and of strategic plans. It includes in <i>Annex 1</i> the MYPOW's major outputs and milestone for the forthcoming five regular sessions of the Commission and in <i>Annex 2</i> more detailed plans for the next two sessions of the Commission.</p>
<p>II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING</p>	<p>II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING</p> <p>No proposed changes</p>
<p>III. PARTNERSHIPS</p>	<p>III. PARTNERSHIPS</p> <p>No proposed changes</p>

Annex 1. Draft Multi-year Programme of Work: Major Outputs and Milestones (2023–2031)

	19th Session (2023)	20th Session (2025)	21st Session (2026/2027)	22nd Session (2028/2029)	23rd Session (2030/2031)
Animal genetic resources			Presentation of SoW AnGR-3 Review of GPA AnGR		
Aquatic genetic resources			Review of implementation of the GPA AqGR	Presentation of SoW AqGR 2	Review of GPA AqGR
Forest genetic resources	Presentation of SoW FGR-2	Review of GPA FGR		Review of implementation of GPA FGR	
Micro-organisms and invertebrates		Dietary components of food/feed; food processing and agro-industrial processes		Review of work on MIGR	
Plant genetic resources	Presentation of SoW PGR-3	Review of Second GPA PGR	Review of WIEWS reporting tool		Review of implementation (Second) GPA PGR
Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	Follow-up to the SoW BFA	Review of the FA BFA		Presentation of SoW BFA-2	Follow-up to the SoW BFA-2
Access and benefit-sharing		Effects of ABS measures on utilization and conservation of GRFA	Update of compilation of ABS country measures		Review of work on ABS
Biotechnologies				Review of the work on biotechnologies for conservation and sustainable use of GRFA	
Digital sequence information	Consider the use of DSI on GRFA and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA		Recent developments on DSI and their potential implications for conservation, sustainable use of GRFA		Review of the work on DSI and the potential implications for conservation, sustainable use and ABS of GRFA
Climate change	Review of draft questions on climate change and GRFA	Summary of questionnaire responses Review of revised Voluntary Guidelines		Review of work on climate change and GRFA	
Nutrition and Health	Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health				
New and emerging issues*)					
Management	Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan		Progress report on implementation of Strategic Plan; SDGs		Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan

* A procedure for the ad hoc identification of new and emerging issues will be proposed for consideration by the intergovernmental technical working groups at their next sessions and by the Commission at its Twentieth Regular Session.

APPENDIX II**SESSION PLANNING FOR THE TWENTIETH AND TWENTY-FIRST SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE****Activities in preparation of CGRFA-20 (2025)**

Sectoral matters	
Animal genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the GPA AnGR • Prepare Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the GPA AnGR • Prepare progress report on the Status of preparation of SoW AnGR-3 • Prepare Status and trends report 2024
Aquatic genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare questionnaire for monitoring implementation of GPA AqGR
Forest genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for review of GPA FGR
Micro-organisms and invertebrate genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare studies on Dietary components/ food processing and agro-industrial processes • Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter
Plant genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Second GPA PGR • Review of practical guides for the application of the Genebank Standards: conservation of species producing recalcitrant seeds and conservation through cryopreservation
Cross-sectoral matters	
Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare review of FA BFA and options for future reviews of activities taken to implement the FA BFA
Access and benefit-sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulate pre-tested country questionnaire on the application of ABS country measures • Prepare report on the practical application of ABS country measures to the different subsectors of GRFA and TKGRFA, with a view to identifying the effects of ABS measures on the utilization and conservation of the different subsectors of GRFA and TKGRFA and the sharing of benefits
Biotechnologies	
Digital sequence information on GRFA	
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare review of revised Voluntary Guidelines to support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning • Prepare summary of responses to the questionnaire on GRFA and climate change
Nutrition and health	
New and emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare procedure for Commission to identify new and emerging issues, taking into account the advice of the intergovernmental technical working groups
Management	
Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite international instruments and organizations to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs

Activities in preparation of CGRFA-21 (2027)

Sectoral matters	
Animal genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare draft SoW AnGR 3 • Review GPA AnGR
Aquatic genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare review of implementation of the GPA AqGR
Forest genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the GPA FGR
Micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources	
Plant genetic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the (Second) GPA PGR • Review of implementation of the (Second) GPA PGR • Prepare review of WIEWS reporting tool
Cross-sectoral matters	
Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture	
Access and benefit-sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update compilation of ABS country measures accommodating this distinctive features of GRFA
Biotechnologies	
Digital sequence information on GRFA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor developments regarding DSI in other fora, assess their potential implications for sustainable use and conservation of GRFA
Climate change	
Nutrition and health	
New and emerging issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare documentation for new and emerging issue, as applicable
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare progress report on implementation of Strategic Plan; SDGs
Other matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite international instruments and organizations to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs