

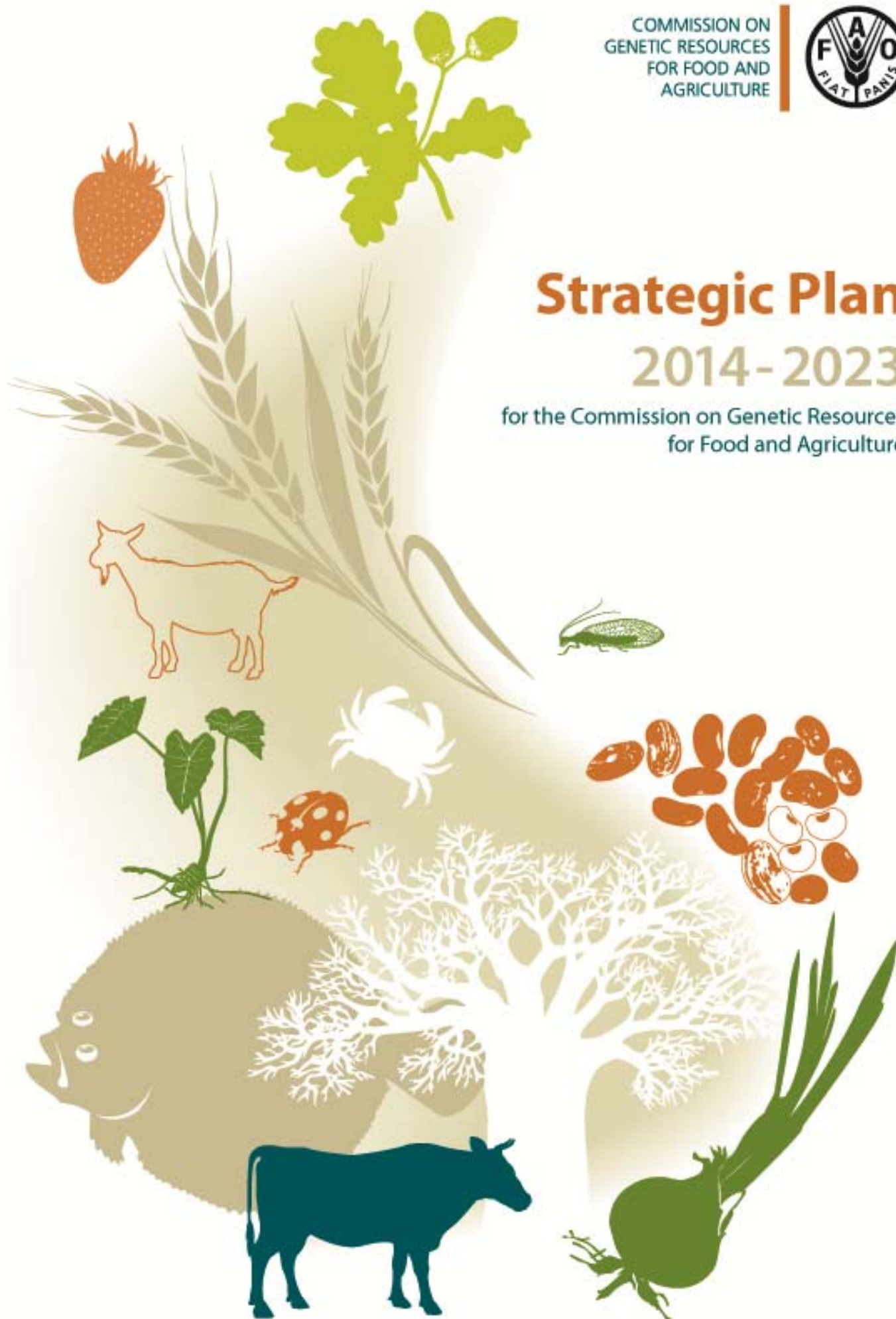
COMMISSION ON
GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE



Strategic Plan

2014-2023

for the Commission on Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture



**STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2014-2023[♣]**

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Table 1. The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work Major Outputs and Milestones (2014-2023)

[♣] The Strategic Plan is contained in *Appendix I* of the Report of the Fourteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA-14/13/Report). The full Report is available on the Commission's website at: www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa

VISION

Conserving biodiversity for food and agriculture and promoting its use in support of global food security and sustainable development, for present and future generations.

MISSION

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 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, sustainable use, including exchange,, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use.

STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Goal 1:** *The Commission has a coordinating role and deals with policy, sectorial and cross-sectorial matters related to the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources of relevance to food and agriculture.*
- The Commission guides and monitors FAO's policies, programmes and activities related to genetic resources for food and agriculture within the framework of FAO's strategic objectives.
 - The Commission keeps under continuous review relevant matters in other forums, including policy developments, relating to 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.
- Goal 2:** *The Commission monitors the state of the world's genetic resources for food and agriculture.*
- The Commission supervises the periodic preparation of global assessments on genetic resources for food and agriculture leading to *The State of World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, and, as appropriate, the development of a comprehensive global information system or systems for relevant genetic resources in support of this role.
- Goal 3:** *The Commission strives to reach international consensus on policies and action programmes to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.*
- The Commission provides an intergovernmental forum for negotiation of international policies on genetic resources for food and agriculture.
 - The Commission oversees the implementation of, and updates, global action plans and other instruments addressing the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as access to these resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use.
 - The Commission responds to developments in other forums, where appropriate.

Goal 4: *The Commission contributes to the strengthening of national and regional policies on biodiversity for food and agriculture and promotes cooperation in capacity-building*

- The Commission supports the development or strengthening of national and regional policies and programmes on genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular by facilitating the implementation of global plans of actions for genetic resources, and establishes coordination mechanisms to promote national and regional cooperation across relevant sectors and among actors.
- The Commission identifies and facilitates the availability of financial, human, scientific, technical and technological resources to enable Commission Members to contribute actively to the achievement of the outputs and milestones of the Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work and to implement policies and recommendations developed by the Commission.
- The Commission supports its Members in the development and implementation of strategies and activities that raise public awareness and facilitate education that creates a better understanding of the relevance of biodiversity for food and agriculture and thereby promotes broader participation of stakeholders in the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Goal 5: *The Commission continues and strengthens cooperation and partnerships on biodiversity for food and agriculture.*

- The Commission facilitates and oversees cooperation between FAO and other relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies, including the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and the Global Crop Diversity Trust.
- In addition to its activities on plant and animal genetic resources, the Commission brings together international partners addressing biodiversity for food and agriculture, to facilitate exchange of experiences and to create new partnerships, including in particular for forest, aquatic, micro-organism and invertebrate biodiversity and their interrelations
- The Commission's cooperation with other relevant international bodies strives to ensure that negotiations in other forums take into account the special needs of the agricultural sector with regard to all components of biological diversity relevant for food and agriculture.
- The Commission will actively increase the involvement of all stakeholders, such as civil society and producer organizations, including organizations representing women and small-scale producers, breeding institutions and industries, and public- and private-sector organizations involved with genetic resources for food and agriculture.

I. RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2023

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 that the world's food supply depends on. Biodiversity for food and agriculture contributes to food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods, and underpins the natural potential for adaptation to ever-changing socio-economic and environmental dynamics, such as population growth, nutritional needs and climate change.
2. Aware of the importance of each component of biodiversity for food and agriculture to global food security, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (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.
3. The Commission operates under a Multi-Year Programme of Work, or MYPOW, which it adopted in 2007 and revised in 2011¹ and 2013. The MYPOW guides the Commission in the implementation of its Strategic Plan. It suggests a structure for subsequent sessions of the Commission and consists of a clear implementation schedule of the key milestones and outputs the Commission has agreed to address. The Commission's MYPOW (2014-2023) is provided in *Table 1*.
4. The Commission also developed a Strategic Plan identifying the processes that would be needed, and the organizations with which cooperation would be needed, in order to achieve the outputs and milestones laid out in the MYPOW.² The Commission adopted this plan in 2009 and revised it in 2013. The Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2023, contains two main sections:
 - The Commission's vision and mission statements, its strategic goals and objectives, and chapters on the rationale and the implementation of the Strategic Plan; and
 - The Commission's MYPOW (2014-2023).
5. In 2010, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as the basis for halting and reversing the loss of the planet's biodiversity.³ To build support and momentum for this urgent task, the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session declared the period 2011 to 2020 to be "the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011-2020" (Resolution 65/161). The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity includes five strategic goals and 20 targets, known as the Aichi Targets. Through the implementation of its MYPOW the Commission particularly contributes to achieving Aichi Targets 4, 7, 13 and 16.⁴

II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING

6. The Commission's MYPOW guides the Commission in the implementation of its Strategic Plan. The MYPOW is a rolling, and therefore flexible, set of outputs and milestones, which the Commission keeps under review. Reviewing the MYPOW enables the Commission to assess the progress of its work, to address and include new and emerging issues in the field of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and to take into account new developments and processes in other relevant forums. The Commission agreed to review the MYPOW at its Sixteenth and Eighteenth Regular Sessions.
7. For the implementation of the MYPOW, the Commission receives technical support from its subsidiary bodies, including the intergovernmental technical working groups. The intergovernmental technical working groups review the situation and issues related to biodiversity in the areas under their respective competences. They provide advice and make recommendations to the Commission on these matters and consider the progress made in implementing the Commission's MYPOW.

¹ CGRFA-13/11/Report, *Appendix F*.

² The Strategic Plan 2010-2017 for the Implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work (CGRFA-12/09/Report, *Appendix G*).

³ Decision X/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

⁴ <http://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>

8. Through its MYPOW, the Commission foresees the preparation and presentation of State of the World Reports on animal, plant, aquatic and forest genetic resources, as well as on biodiversity for food and agriculture. Each of the above-mentioned sectors will produce a State of the World Report every ten years and the Commission will be presented with no more than one such report at each regular session. Every two to four years, intermediate reports on the status and trends of each of the sectors will be presented to the Commission. As the preparation of State of the World Reports is largely country-driven, this schedule will reduce the reporting burden on countries. It will also facilitate the Commission's strategic planning process, including the timely mobilization of financial and human resources.

9. The success of the implementation of the Strategic Plan will depend on the support provided through FAO's Programme of Work and Budget, and on the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources, as well as on partnerships with, and the contributions of, other international organizations.

III. PARTNERSHIPS

10. To achieve its strategic goals and objectives and support the implementation of the MYPOW, the Commission will continue to seek synergies and strengthen partnerships with the relevant specialized agencies and conventions of the United Nations as well as other intergovernmental organizations. Cooperation will also be enhanced with international agricultural research centres, national and regional scientific organizations, international and regional non-governmental organizations, civil society, producer organizations, relevant funding agencies and the private sector.

11. To facilitate the implementation of the Commission's MYPOW and strengthen cooperation in the field of biodiversity for food and agriculture, the Commission has established a focused consultation process, by which international organizations are invited to provide information on their programmes, activities and policies relevant to the prioritized themes of each of the Commission's regular sessions.

12. The *Joint Statement of Intent for Cooperation between the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*⁵ and the *Joint Work Plan of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and its Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*⁶ also contribute to the effective implementation of the Commission's MYPOW by enhancing synergies between the programmes of work of the different bodies.

⁵ CGRFA-12/09/Report, Appendix H.

⁶ CGRFA-13/11/Inf.11.

Table 1. The Commission's Multi-Year Programme of Work Major Outputs and Milestones (2014-2023)

	15th Session 2014/ 2015	16th Session 2016/ 2017	17th Session 2018/ 2019	18th Session 2020/ 2021	19th Session 2022/ 2023
<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Consideration of the internalization of the ecosystem approach to biodiversity management in agriculture, forestry and fisheries	Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	Follow up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>		
Plant Genetic Resources (PGRFA)	Review of implementation of the <i>Second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>			Presentation of <i>The Third Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i> Consideration of the <i>Third Global Plan of Action</i> for adoption	
Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR)	Presentation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Consideration of the updated <i>Global Plan of Action</i> for adoption		Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i>	
Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR)		Presentation of <i>The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	Development of elements related to the <i>Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries</i> and associated tools for assessing their implementation, aimed to maintain a broad genetic basis and to ensure sustainable use and conservation of aquatic genetic resources		Review of implementation of relevant elements of the <i>Code of Conduct of Responsible Fisheries</i>
Forest Genetic Resources (FoGR)	Follow-up to the <i>Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources</i>		Review of implementation of the <i>Global Plan of Action</i>		Presentation of the <i>Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources</i>
Micro-organisms and invertebrates	Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates			Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates	
Cross-sectorial matters	Consideration of draft elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture		Review of existing access and benefit-sharing instruments and their impact on genetic resources for food and agriculture		
		Review implementation of Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture			
		Review and analyze lessons learnt from the implementation of targets and indicators			
	Review of the work of the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture			Review of the work of the Commission's Working Groups on the application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and agriculture	
			Review of work on biodiversity and nutrition		
		Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the MYPOW	Review of impact of State of the World Reports	Progress Report/ Periodic assessment/ Review of the MYPOW	