

May 2007



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
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Food
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des
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pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
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Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

Item 7.4 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Eleventh Regular Session

Rome, 11-15 June 2007

REPORTS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THEIR POLICIES, PROGRAMMES, AND ACTIVITIES ON AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY:

REPORTS ARRIVED LATE FOR TRANSLATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<i>Paras.</i>
I. Introduction	1
Submissions by (1) United Nations and Other Inter-Governmental Organizations:	
II. Network for Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)	2 - 5
III. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	6 - 16
IV. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	17 - 32
V. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	33 - 38
Submissions by (3) International non-governmental Organizations:	
VI. The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO)	39 - 42

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present document contains submissions which were received after document CGRFA-11/07/19 was finalized. They are accordingly made available in the language in which they were received only, English.

SUBMISSIONS BY (1) UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

II. NETWORK FOR AQUACULTURE CENTRES IN ASIA-PACIFIC (NACA)

2. The Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA), being an intergovernmental organization consisting of 17 member governments of the Asia-Pacific¹ region has a program dedicated to genetics and biodiversity research and management in aquaculture and fisheries. NACA initiated this work program in 2004 with an attempt to preserve aquatic biodiversity to ensure that aquaculture developments are sustained in the long term.

3. NACA Governing Council at its 18th Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, 2-5 May 2007 at which 15 of the 17 member governments were present; considered in detail the document entitled "The World's Aquatic Genetic resources: Status and needs", which will be reviewed by the Commission at its Eleventh Session. The Governing Council welcomed the inclusion of genetic resources of aquatic animals into the future work of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Council was of the view that this was long overdue and this initiative would contribute significantly to sustainable development of aquaculture, which currently provides over 40% of global aquatic food consumption, out of which more than 80% come from the member countries of NACA from the Asian-Pacific region. NACA member Governments endorsed the participation in a Multi-year Program of Work on genetic resources of aquatic organisms, in conjunction with the FAO that has direct relevance to aquaculture development in the Asia-Pacific region.

4. Over the last five years, NACA has played an active role in the following areas of research and development pertaining genetics and biodiversity:

- Capacity building in the use of molecular genetic tools in genetic characterization for aquaculture and inland fisheries management through:
 - o Training workshops;
 - o Development of manuals;
 - o Dissemination research results through NACA website.
- NACA has been involved in the implementation of a number of research and development projects, that include:
 - o Development of broodstock management strategies for two indigenous, newly emerging cultured mahseer species in Malaysia, which are members of an important group of fish in the Asian region with high commercial and conservational value.

¹ Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, PR China, Democratic Republic of Korea, Hong Kong China, India, Indonesia, IR Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

The purpose of this activity was to support the maintenance of genetic diversity in hatcheries to minimize potential negative impacts on the wild counterparts if stock enhancement were to undertaken or due to escapements;

- o A taxonomic and phylogenetic study on mahseer group. This project attempted to resolve taxonomic difficulties with mahseer species, which is highly contentious. In the view of new development in aquaculture of mahseer, the project contributes significantly in development of tools to identify species, in order to avoid genetic contamination in hatcheries.
- o Contribution to the development of conservation strategies for the critically endangered Mekong giant catfish, *Pangasianodon gigas*.
- o A phylogenetic study on a number of scallop species in the Asian region
- o Identification of management units of moon scallop, *Amusium pleuronectes* for management purposes.

5. In its work plan for 2008-2010, NACA initiated the work on broodstock management of indigenous species in aquaculture which in the long term will replace the dependence on exotic species as such minimizing the potential negative impact thereof.

III. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

Examples of UNDP Activities to Promote the Conservation of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

6. Project Title: Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems

Project Location:	Global (Peru, Chile, China, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Philippines)
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Executing Agency:	Food and Agricultural Organization
Project Start Date:	2004
Funding:	US\$ 6.725 m (GEF Grant) US\$ 18.000 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: The project selects model systems and promotes sustainable use and management of resources in order to dynamically conserve ingenious agricultural systems (globally significant biodiversity – land races, genetic pool – unique agro-landscapes, innovative traditional technologies and adaptations) without destroying farmer innovation.

7. Project Title: Conserving Globally Significant Biodiversity in Cocoa Production Landscapes in West Africa

Project Location:	Ghana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Nigeria
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Executing Agency:	Conservation International - Ghana
Project Start Date:	Dec 2004
Funding:	US\$ 3.323 m (GEF Grant) US\$ 7.000 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: The overall goal of this project is to conserve globally significant biodiversity within cocoa production landscapes in West Africa. Cocoa production is a major economic activity and land use in the Guinean Forests of West Africa hotspot, one of the world's 25 biologically richest and most endangered terrestrial regions. Forest ecosystems here harbor more than half of all mammal species found in Africa.

8. Project Title: West Africa Endemic Livestock
 Project Location: Mali, Gambia, Guinea, Senegal
 Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
 Executing Agency: Gambia (Department of Livestock Services) Guinea (Direction Nationale de l'Élevage) Mali (Direction Nationale de la Conservation de la Nature) Senegal (Direction de l'Élevage)
 Project Start Date: 2004 – 2016
 Funding: US\$ 10.495 m (GEF Grant)
 US\$ 19.593 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: The West African populations of endemic ruminant livestock in the four countries represent a highly diverse "genetic treasure trove", which is under increasing threat of genetic dilution and extinction. This project removes barriers to the in-situ conservation of these critical and unique genetic trait/habitat complexes.

9. Project Title: Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Wild Relatives of Crops
 Project Location: China
 Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
 Executing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture
 Project Start Date: 2006
 Funding: US\$ 8.056 m (GEF Grant)
 US\$ 12.842 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: Wild relatives of rice, soybean, and wheat are significant for sustainable development in both China and the world. This project will eliminate barriers to the mainstreaming of conservation of wild relatives within the agricultural sector, thus promoting integration of conservation and production, and ensuring that the global environmental benefits secured thereby are sustainable. The project supports the establishment of protected areas with an integrated and landscape approach and with participation from local communities and various stakeholders, so as to secure the wild relatives of soybean, wheat, and rice, including their natural habitats. In this regard, the project will bring best international practices to China for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

10. Project Title: In situ Conservation of Native Landraces and their Wild Relatives
 Project Location: Vietnam
 Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
 Executing Agency: Institute of Agriculture Genetics
 Project Start Date: 2001 – 2004
 Funding: US\$ 0.925 m (GEF Grant)
 US\$ 2.999 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: This project targeted conservation of six important crop groups (rice, taro, tea, litchi-longan, citrus and ridge bean) including native landraces and wild relatives in three local eco-geographical areas: the northern mountains, the northern midlands, and the north-west mountains of Vietnam. These areas are rich in biodiversity of native landraces and their wild relatives. The six crop groups were protected by mitigating the threats to the agrobiodiversity of the target sites and preserving their genetic diversity, thus improving global food security. This was done through promoting community based gene management zones and providing the enabling conditions for preserving agrobiodiversity.

11. Project Title: Mainstreaming Conservation and Sustainable Use of Medicinal Plant Diversity in Three Indian States

Project Location:	India
Implementing Agency:	United Nations Development Programme
Executing Agency:	Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India
Project Start Date:	2005
Funding:	US\$ 5.280 m (GEF Grant) US\$ 6.479 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: This project seeks to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of India's medicinal plant diversity, particularly of its globally significant species. The project will do this by mainstreaming conservation and sustainable use objectives into forest management policy and practice at the national, state and local level in three Indian states: Arunachal Pradesh in North-East India, Chattisgarh in Central India and Uttaranchal in North-west India. Together, these states represent a broad complement of India's MAP diversity, including numerous globally significant species and populations. The project will be working with a total of at least 400 species of medicinal plants including at least 80 globally significant medicinal plants, including several critically endangered species.

12. Project Title: Recovery, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Georgia's Agrobiodiversity
- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Project Location: | Georgia |
| Implementing Agency: | United Nations Development Programme |
| Executing Agency: | Ministry of Environment |
| Project Start Date: | 2004 |
| Funding: | US\$ 0.987 m (GEF Grant)
US\$ 1.717 m (Cofinancing) |

Summary: The project's long-term goal is the conservation and sustainable utilization of globally threatened varieties important to food and agriculture through, firstly, a pilot demonstration of in-situ and ex-situ conservation of selected local agricultural biodiversity in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region and secondly, agreeing and implementing a strategy for replication in other Georgian regions of best practice and lessons learned in conservation and utilization of local agricultural biodiversity. The project will be implemented through a partnership with the Association ELKANA, an established NGO that provides technical, distribution and marketing support to organic farmers. The NGO has its own distribution network, marketing unit and provides its own credit lines to member farmers, and has also established contacts with distributors and organic associations in Europe. This project will finance activities to supplement ELKANA's regular technical, distribution and marketing services to farmers who use the threatened and globally important varieties targeted by this project.

13. Project Title: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wild Salmonid Biological Diversity in Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula
- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Project Location: | Russian Federation |
| Implementing Agency: | United Nations Development Programme |
| Executing Agency: | State Fisheries Committee/Kamachatrybvod |
| Project Start Date: | 2002 |
| Funding: | US\$ 3.309 m (GEF Grant)
US\$ 10.516 m (Cofinancing) |

Summary: The objective of the project is the conservation of salmonid genetic diversity and the maintenance of ecosystem integrity in four river systems on Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula through support to government agencies, local communities and indigenous peoples to conserve salmonid diversity in the project's four river sites by applying a new diversity-oriented approach, conservation tools and sustainable livelihoods. The project uses an adaptive management

approach that is designed to respond to emergent threats and orient conservation activities to threat mitigation.

14. Project Title: In-Situ conservation of Kazakhstan's Mountain Agrobiodiversity
- Project Location: Kazakhstan
- Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
- Executing Agency: Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP)/ Forestry, Fishery and Hunting Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA)
- Project Start Date: 2003
- Funding: US\$ 3.023 m (GEF Grant)
US\$ 4.789 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: The project focuses on the development of a public-private partnership in order to build a sustainable, in-situ conservation and utilisation programme for Kazakhstan's mountain agrobiodiversity. The project combines in-situ conservation of crop wild relatives by strengthening management of protected areas and priority habitats with the strengthening of conservation within agricultural systems through developing markets for traditional varieties and farmer extension work on traditional variety management. The project is supporting stakeholders to conserve and sustainably use agro-biodiversity in two priority sites within Kazakhstan's Tien Shan Mountains by developing and applying new methods and tools for conservation, including partnerships among conservation and land-use agencies, local governments, SPAs, local communities and the private sector.

15. Project Title: In-situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Enhanced Information Management and Field Application
- Project Location: Regional (Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan)
- Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
- Executing Agency: Government ministries in Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome, Italy
- Project Start Date: 2002
- Funding: US\$ 6.162 m (GEF Grant)
US\$ 6.517 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: The objective of the project is the safe and effective conservation of crop wild relatives and their increased availability for crop improvement in Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan. The project will combine in-situ conservation of crop wild relatives in protected areas with the strengthening of conservation within traditional agricultural systems through farmer extension work on landrace management. The approach to be developed will remove barriers that are preventing the conservation of biodiversity important to agriculture.

16. Project Title: In-Situ Conservation of Andean Crops and their Wild Relatives in the Humahuaca Valley, the Southernmost Extension of the Central Andes
- Project Location: Argentina
- Implementing Agency: United Nations Development Programme
- Executing Agency: NGO - FUCEMA
- Project Start Date: 2005
- Funding: US\$ 0.963 m (GEF Grant)
US\$ 0.909 m (Cofinancing)

Summary: The objective of this project is to ensure that indigenous farmers in the Humahuaca Valley of Argentina adopt improved on-farm conservation and management, based on traditional production practices that contribute to in-situ conservation of selected globally significant Andean crop varieties and their wild relatives.

IV. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

17. Introduction

The present report has been prepared for the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. It provides information on United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) activities related to genetic resources for food and agriculture.

18. UNEP-Global Environment Facility

As part of its GEF portfolio of projects UNEP works in partnership with CGIAR, FAO and National Agriculture Research Centres to actively support country-driven initiatives aimed at conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources of actual and potential value for food and agriculture.

19. Current projects address issues related to:

- Assessment of status and trends of plant and animal genetic resources of global importance and ensuring that these resources are effectively conserved and sustainably used;
- Generating knowledge about plant and animal genetic resources and making such knowledge globally available;
- Sharing benefits arising from the use of these resources;
- Developing human and institutional capacities for conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources;
- Policy analyses and recommendation for enhancing conservation of genetic resources;
- Raising awareness of the values of plant and animal genetic resources and the importance of their conservation.

More specifically projects under implementation include:

21. a. **Conservation and Sustainable Management of Below-Ground Biodiversity** (Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Uganda)

This project aims at developing methods for characterization and evaluation of below-ground biodiversity (BGBD), including a set of indicators for BGBD loss; conducting inventory and evaluation of BGBD in benchmark sites representing a range of globally significant ecosystems and land uses; developing global information exchange network for BGBD; identifying sustainable and replicable management practices for BGBD conservation; providing recommendations of alternative land use practices and an advisory support system for policies that will enhance the conservation of BGBD.; improving capacity of all relevant institutions and stakeholders to implement conservation management of BGBD in a sustainable and efficient manner.

21. b. **In situ Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives through Enhanced Information Management and Field Application** (Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan)

The outcomes of this project are the safe and effective conservation of crop wild relatives and their increased availability for crop improvement in Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka and Uzbekistan, together with an international information system that can support crop wild relatives' conservation throughout the world. Expected outputs include: An internationally

accessible information system available through the internet that allows access to, processing and utilization of CWR information for conservation planning amongst the institutions within and outside of the target countries of the project; national information management systems created within each partner country that bring together information on crop wild relatives held by different institutions; determined conservation status of crop wild relatives in the participating countries; developed and tested decision-making procedures that allow countries to identify priority conservation actions and those of the highest priority will be carried out; investigated benefit sharing issues relevant to crop wild relatives' conservation; and programmes undertaken to increase the involvement of country decision makers and the public in conservation of crop wild relatives.

22. c. In Situ/On-Farm Conservation and Use of Agricultural Biodiversity (Horticultural Crops and Wild Fruit Species) in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan)

The expected outcome of this project is the conservation and sustainable use of horticultural crops and wild fruit species genetic diversity in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Local varieties of horticultural crops and wild fruit species have been conserved in situ/on farm through enhanced capacity of stakeholder groups including policy-makers, researchers, agricultural extension workers, farmers and their associations, local communities, and NGOs. Knowledge about levels and distribution of fruit species genetic diversity, and the value of this diversity for sustainable agriculture and ecosystem health, have been used to strengthen policy and legislation as it relates to project objectives. The project will produce and distribute proven participatory management models that will contribute to the conservation of this important global resource within and outside the five target countries.

23. d. Conservation and Use of Crop Genetic Diversity to Control Pests and Diseases in Support of Sustainable Agriculture (China, Ecuador, Morocco, Uganda)

The project is developing tools — the diagnostic participatory protocols to determine when and where intra-specific crop diversity can be used to manage pest and disease pressures by integrating existing farmer knowledge, belief and practices with advances in the analysis of crop-pest/disease interactions. These protocols have been pre-tested in English, Chinese, Spanish and French in four countries. A review of synthesizing the literature on the potential utility of crop genetic diversity in providing ecosystem services has been carried out. Unlike Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, which have focused on using agronomic management techniques to modify environment around predominantly modern cultivars, this project is unique in that it concentrates on the management of the local crop cultivars themselves as the key resource, making use of the intra specific diversity among cultivars maintained by farmers.

The expected outcome of the project is that resource-poor rural populations will benefit from reduced crop vulnerability to pest and disease attacks through increased use of genetic diversity on-farm. By providing farmers and NARS researchers with the tools and practices needed to manage local crop (intra-specific) genetic diversity, farmers' options to combat pest and disease on-farm will be expanded, food security will be increased, genetic diversity conserved, and ecosystem health improved.

24. e. Conservation of Gramineae and Associated Arthropods for Sustainable Agricultural Development in Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali)

The overall goal of the project is stated as 'to document diversity of Gramineae and associated insects in different selected agro-ecosystems and socio-economic surroundings, and their adjacent natural habitats in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali; to understand the relationships between certain grasses and insects; and to develop and promote the practical application of this knowledge in self-regulatory pest management and sustainable agriculture. The project has been identifying and implementing conservation and management measures necessary to prevent loss of biodiversity of certain Gramineae and their associated insects with the main objective to conserve

these valuable genetic resources in and around agro-ecosystems in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mali for self-regulatory pest management and sustainable agriculture.

25. **f. Community Based Management of On-Farm Plant Genetic Resources in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas of Sub-Saharan Africa** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Uganda, Zimbabwe)

The objective of the project was to improve the effectiveness of traditional farming systems for conservation of biodiversity of local and global importance. The project developed models for enabling environments for an effective contribution of traditional farming systems in biodiversity conservation and measures to maintain and promote wider adoption of viable systems. Through case studies, this project combined community based indigenous knowledge, the findings of scientific research and past practical experience in an analysis and synthesis of viable farming systems in arid and semi-arid ecosystems in the eight participating countries. The project also looked at how these systems support the conservation of biodiversity of local and global significance. The best practices and lessons learnt on how landraces have been incorporated into farming systems and/or national agricultural policies and biodiversity conservation strategies have been identified, and the best methods for doing have been disseminated. The main outputs of the project include: developed framework for analysis of 'best practices' for conservation of crop landraces on-farm; established framework that links best practices' for conservation of crop landraces on-farm to decision-making and policy; build capacity in the application of both frameworks in influencing policies that impact on-farm conservation of landraces; catalogue of 'best practices identified;

26. Additional projects under development address issues related to: harness the benefits of pollination services provided by wild biodiversity for human livelihoods and sustainable agriculture, through an ecosystem approach in Africa, Asia and South America, conservation of farm animal genetic diversity in Asia, and management and utilization of tropical fruit genetic diversity in South Asia.

UNEP- Division of Environmental Law and Conventions

Case study on Country Experiences and Challenges in the Adaptation and Application of “the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their utilization” (ABS) in Africa

27. The Bonn Guidelines on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) were adopted at the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-6) held at the Hague, in the Netherlands in April 2002. I Section A of Decision VT/24, the CBD COP-6 urged Parties and Governments to use the Guidelines when developing and drafting legislative, administrative or policy measures on ABS, as well as contracts and other arrangements under mutually agreed terms for ABS. Under Section B of the decision, the COP adopted a capacity building action plan and welcomed the complementary initiative of I to provide support for capacity building to developing countries in the area of ABS.

28. Re-affirming the importance of conservation, protection and sustainable use of genetic resources, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, called upon the international community to negotiate, within the CR!, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

29. Subsequently, at the CBD COP-7 meeting held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2004, the Parties agreed on the ways to move forward with regard to the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines and on how to respond to the call of WSSD. Decisions V11119 A-F charted the way forward on this critical issue of ABS which is central to the overall effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. In Decision VTT/1 9D, the Parties mandated the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on ABS (the body that developed the Bonn guidelines) to

elaborate and negotiate the International Regime on ABS and invited UNEP (along with the FAO and WIPO among others), to co-operate with the Working Group in that process, underlining the importance of having Inter-Agency work in support of conservation and sustainable development. The Working Group is to finalize the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime by 2010. 'Two meetings of the Working Group will be held prior to COP 9 in May 2008.

30. To this end, UNEP undertook pilot case studies on ABS (2005-2006) in 5 countries in Africa namely Uganda, Botswana, Zambia, Ghana and Kenya. The project was designed to provide support on country experiences and challenges faced in the course of adaptation of the Bonn Guidelines to their existing national ABS regimes. On analysis of the project, firstly there is a clear indication that the case studies identified and highlighted activities so far undertaken by countries or are required to underpin and facilitate the effective national implementation of existing ABS regimes or arrangements, if any, in the context of the Bonn Guidelines.

31. Secondly, it emerged from the countries that the study presented them with opportunities to identify and/or formulate options and/or issues to consider for possible inclusion in any new/proposed legislative, administrative and policy measures required (a) at national level to secure and safeguard any ABS arrangements that have been mutually or globally agreed, and/or (b) for possible consideration by the CBD's Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group during the elaboration of the inter-national regime.

32. Another notable activity in 2005, was that UNEP and W published the results of a study carried out to identify and explore the role of intellectual property rights in the sharing of benefits arising from the use of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge, This publication, illustrates the lessons learnt from the use of existing intellectual property rights regimes with respect to benefit sharing. The publication indicates some aspects of intellectual property and current benefit sharing experiences in respect of biological resources and associated traditional knowledge, The publication has provided some lessons regarding the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

V. WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

33. WIPO has undertaken two lines of work which are relevant to the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. One line concerns the work of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore ("the Committee" or IGC), which has developed Draft Provisions for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge (TK). The second line of work was requested by the Commission at its ninth session and addresses the question how intellectual property rights may effect the availability and use of genetic material from the International Network of Ex-situ Collections Under the Auspices of the FAO and the International Treaty.

WIPO Intergovernmental Committee and the draft Provisions on the Protection of Traditional Knowledge

34. Over the course of five years, the WIPO-IGC has developed draft Provisions for the Protection of Traditional Knowledge against misappropriation and misuse (WIPO Publication No. WIPO/GRTKF/INF/1). The provisions were commissioned by the Committee at its sixth session in March 2004, on the basis of draft working materials progressively developed over the five previous sessions of the Committee. At its seventh session, the Committee extensively reviewed the first drafts of the provisions. The Committee agreed on an open commenting process to run between its seventh and eighth sessions, and requested a redraft to be based on comments received. Member States, indigenous and local communities, including farming communities, civil society organizations and a range of other interested parties submitted more than 200 pages of comments. All the comments were taken into account in the subsequent

revision of the provisions. The revised draft WIPO Provisions were circulated and reviewed very extensively by the Committee at its eighth, ninth and tenth sessions, in June 2005, April 2006 and December 2006 respectively. The Committee requested further comments and more comments were received from a wide range of stakeholders.

35. At its tenth session, held in December 2006, the Committee identified ten relevant issues and decided that: (1) Discussion would commence on the issues in numerical order, (2) the existing documents would remain on the table in their existing form and existing positions in relation to them were noted, (3) the discussion on the issues would be complementary to and without prejudice to existing positions in relation to the existing documents, (4) stakeholders were invited to submit comments on the issues, and (5) in relation to the existing draft Provisions, the Secretariat would produce a table containing the titles of provisions as in document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/9/5 and the comments made by delegations and observers in relation to the titles in question. Regarding genetic resources and within the specific mandate of the Committee established by the WIPO General Assembly, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a document listing options for continuing or further work, including work in the areas of the disclosure requirement and alternative proposals for dealing with the relationship between intellectual property and genetic resources; the interface between the patent system and genetic resources; and the intellectual property aspects of access and benefit-sharing contracts; and a factual update of international developments relevant to the genetic resources agenda item. The next session of the Committee will be held in Geneva from July 3 to 12, 2007.

Work requested by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

36. At its ninth session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) requested “that WIPO cooperate with FAO in preparing a study on how intellectual property rights may effect the availability and use of material from the International Network and the International Treaty”. In response to this request, WIPO and FAO have cooperated to analyze how IP rights might affect the availability and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

37. WIPO provided a first progress report on its work regarding this request at the Second Meeting of the Commission Acting as Interim Committee for the International Treaty, entitled Preliminary report on work towards the assessment of patent data relevant to availability and use of material from the International Network of Ex-Situ Collections under the Auspices of FAO and the International Treaty. To commence work towards the request, this progress report only considered patents, rather than intellectual property more generally. One initial pathway to gaining insights on this question was to build up an information base on relevant patents and patent applications. To initiate this process, using existing patent search algorithms, sample searches were conducted in order to test the methods and broadly illustrate the type of information that could be generated, and on that basis to pose questions about how such information could be refined and used to clarify understanding about the effects on availability and use. The main insights from these preliminary sample searches was to illustrate the choices involved in developing a search method, and the type of data that might be obtained through its use. It illustrated the limitations of the conclusions that can be drawn from broad-brush patent searching, and underscored the need for careful analysis of the content, scope and implications of specific patents before any substantive assessments can be made. Above all, the exercise illustrated the need for more extensive examination of the patent landscape, and the broader legal context, that surrounds particular crops, before any practical assessment can be made about the effect on availability and use of material that may be covered by patents. The document ended by identifying options for such follow-up work. The Commission Acting as the Interim Committee “welcomed this Preliminary Report, which was of significant value to the agricultural community, and the continuing cooperation with WIPO”. In its Report, the Interim Committee “looked forward to receiving the report of the next stage of this work, in line with the follow-up activities identified in the preliminary report.”

38. WIPO provided a second progress report on the follow-up work identified in its first findings to the first session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, entitled Progress Report on Work Towards the Assessment of Patent Data Relevant to Agricultural Biotechnology and the Availability and Use of Material from the International Network of Ex-Situ Collections Under the Auspices of FAO and the International Treaty: A Draft Patent Landscape Surrounding Gene Promoters Relevant to Rice. This Progress Report contained a factual description of the international patent landscape surrounding gene promoters relevant to rice. Rice had been selected by FAO and WIPO for the draft patent landscape due to its crucial importance for food security. The FAO selected gene promoters as an illustrative technology for the initial set of patent searches and analysis. Gene promoters regulate the transcription of genetic information from DNA (gene expression) and are therefore key tools in agricultural biotechnology and in the use of PGRFA in research and development. Some initial observations that arose from this progress report included a first review of trends in research and development on these key research tools, including the comparative degree of public and private sector activity, the emergence of research collaborations, and the genes and the traits they express that are of interest to the research community. The Progress Report noted that similar searches would be conducted for maize, potato and soybean, and would subsequently be added to the Report.

SUBMISSIONS BY (3) INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

VI. THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS (IUFRO)

39. The International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) is a global network for forest science co-operation that unites more than 15,000 scientists in about 700 IUFRO member organizations in more than 110 countries.

40. In 2005, thousands of IUFRO scientists and researchers representing 96 countries participated in the XXII IUFRO World Congress in Brisbane, Australia. The theme was “Forests in the Balance: Linking Tradition & Technology”. One technical session was entitled, “Utilizing Genetic Resources to Further Sustainable Forests”. A number of papers and posters were also given at the other technical sessions on the management of forest genetic resources.

41. Since the World Congress, scientists and researchers from Division 2 have continued to promote the importance of the management of forest genetic resources. In October 2006, Division 2 organized a meeting entitled, “Low input breeding and genetic conservation of forest tree species” in Antalya, Turkey. The aim of the meeting was to promote discussions on how to more effectively conduct breeding and conservation efforts for minor species in regions where financial resources are limited. Discussions centered on the differences between “minor and secondary species”, low-cost solutions to conservation problems, the need to include private industry in the discussions, and the growing restrictions of germplasm transfer across international boundaries. There were about approximately 100 attendees from 25 countries at the conference.

42. Two other IUFRO conferences are worth noting because of their genetics and conservation themes. In April 2007, Division 2 held a conference on Breeding for Wood Quality in Hobart, Australia. The theme of the meeting addressed all aspects of wood quality from the latest silviculture, breeding and equipment technologies to an assortment of new biotechnologies that examine wood properties at the gene level. In October, 2007, IUFRO scientists will gather in Durban, South Africa to hold a conference on, “The Improvement and Culture of Eucalypts”. Traditionally, this meeting is well supported by attendees from private industry. The conservation of eucalypts will be discussed in the context of global warming and the increase in disease and insect attacks.