



# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda

### INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

#### Eleventh Session

Rome, 18–20 April 2023

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

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Since 2007, the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) has guided the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) in the implementation of its mandate.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> In 2017 and 2019, the Commission overhauled its 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.<sup>3</sup>

2. A detailed review of the implementation of the Commission’s work was prepared for the Commission’s Sixteenth Regular Session.<sup>4</sup> As foreseen in the Strategic Plan 2019–2027, the Commission will review progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019–2027 and update the Strategic Plan at its next session.

3. This document reviews progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2019–2027 since the Commission’s Sixteenth Regular Session. It also contains the draft updated Strategic Plan 2023–2031 spanning the Commission’s next five sessions. Following the review of the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031 by the Commission’s intergovernmental technical working groups (Working Groups), the document will be consolidated for consideration by the Commission at its next session.

### I. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2027

4. During the reporting period, the Commission continued to implement, in a stepwise manner, its mandate that was broadened in 1995 by the FAO Conference to cover all components of biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture.<sup>5</sup> The Commission also considered emerging issues, including digital sequence information (DSI), established by the Commission at its Sixteenth Regular Session as a new workstream.<sup>6</sup> 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 Commission’s guidance follow a strictly participatory and country-driven approach. They are based on country reports on 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, reporting also on the monitoring of implementation of the Global Plans of Action (GPAs).<sup>7</sup> The preparation of country reports through inclusive and participative 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 agriculture.

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix I*.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix F*.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-16/17/22.

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

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

<sup>7</sup> <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)<sup>8</sup> and on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW AqGR).<sup>9</sup> 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 latter reports will be presented as draft versions to the Commission's Working Groups on Forest and Plant Genetic Resources and, subsequently, to the Commission for consideration at its next session.

9. The Commission, at its next session, 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).<sup>10</sup>

10. 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,<sup>11</sup> the Commission considered, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, pollinators and biological control agents (BCA) and biostimulants on the basis of two targeted draft assessments.<sup>12</sup> The assessments 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, the two assessments are currently being finalized, taking into account comments received, and will be published as background study papers.<sup>13</sup> At its next session, the Commission will consider assessments of soil micro-organisms and invertebrates, with emphasis on bioremediation and nutrient-cycling organisms, and of micro-organisms of relevance to ruminant digestion.<sup>14</sup>

### Policy instruments

11. 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:

#### *Biodiversity for food and agriculture*

- **The Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture**<sup>15</sup> (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.<sup>16</sup> The FA BFA addresses biodiversity for food and agriculture as a whole, creates a contextual framework for the coherent and consistent implementation of the Commission's 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,

<sup>8</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA3129EN>

<sup>9</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5256EN>

<sup>10</sup> CGRFA-AnGR-12/23/5.

<sup>11</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, Appendix E.

<sup>12</sup> CGRFA-18/21/11.1/Inf.1; CGRFA-18/21/11.2/Inf.1.

<sup>13</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraphs 80 & 86.

<sup>14</sup> CGRFA-AnGR-12/23/6.

<sup>15</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb8338en>

<sup>16</sup> CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

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 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.**”<sup>17</sup>
- In 2019, the Commission endorsed the guidelines on **Developing sustainable value chains for small-scale livestock producers**,<sup>18</sup> 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**<sup>19</sup> 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**<sup>20</sup> updates and complements the 2011 FAO guidelines on **Molecular genetic characterization of animal genetic resources.**<sup>21</sup>

#### *Aquatic genetic resources*

- The **Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture**<sup>22</sup> (GPA AqGR), approved by the Eighteenth Regular Session of the Commission, was adopted by the FAO Council in December 2021<sup>23</sup> 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 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 also endorsed the **Voluntary Guidelines for Preparing a National Strategy for Forest Genetic Resources.**<sup>24</sup> The guidelines aim to support countries in the implementation of the GPA FGR and to promote the integration of forest genetic resources into other relevant national instruments and strategies.

<sup>17</sup> C 2017/Rep, Annex D, Resolution 3/2017.

<sup>18</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5717EN>

<sup>19</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3078en>

<sup>20</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3079en>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/20b9d938-0b39-544c-9253-a855b5762ddc/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9905en>

<sup>23</sup> CL 168/REP, paragraph 38.

<sup>24</sup> CGRFA-17/19/10.3.

### *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**<sup>25</sup> and in 2019 the **Voluntary Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Farmers' Varieties/Landraces**.<sup>26</sup> 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**<sup>27</sup> (Genebank Standards) and requested FAO to finalize and disseminate them.<sup>28</sup> The guides address: (i) the conservation of orthodox seeds;<sup>29</sup> (ii) the conservation in field genebanks;<sup>30</sup> and (iii) the conservation of plant genetic resources via *in vitro* culture.<sup>31</sup> 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.

### *Micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources*

- In response to the targeted assessments of pollinators and biological control agents and biostimulants, the Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to maintain momentum in addressing the various 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 next session.<sup>32</sup>

### *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)<sup>33</sup> and requested FAO to disseminate the ABS Elements with the explanatory notes included.<sup>34</sup>

### *Post-2020 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**,<sup>35</sup> which stresses the need for FAO, the Commission

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/8f366de9-08a8-42ad-aae1-4f8f6822420e/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.fao.org/policy-support/tools-and-publications/resources-details/en/c/1263074/>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/i3704e/i3704e.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 100.

<sup>29</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0021en>

<sup>30</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0023en>

<sup>31</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0025en>

<sup>32</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 93.

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/CA5088EN/>

<sup>34</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 16.

<sup>35</sup> CL 168/REP, Appendix E.

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 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In the context of the discussions on this framework, 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**

12. Following a request by the Commission,<sup>36</sup> 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).

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

14. 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**<sup>37</sup> 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.

15. The Funding Strategy for forest genetic resources joined a similar funding strategy adopted by the Commission in 2009<sup>38</sup> (and revised in 2013<sup>39</sup>) to generate funds for the implementation of the GPA AnGR. During the reporting period, neither funding strategy has generated any funds dedicated for FAO Trust Accounts.

16. 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**

17. The Commission monitors the implementation of its 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.

18. 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 reports 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*<sup>40</sup> and summarized in the document *Summary assessment of the implementation of the Second Global Plan of*

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<sup>36</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1, paragraph 85.

<sup>37</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, *Appendix D*.

<sup>38</sup> CGRFA-12/09/Report, *Appendix C*.

<sup>39</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report *Appendix G.2*.

<sup>40</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.2.

*Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2012–2014*.<sup>41</sup> These assessments, together with the results of the second reporting round (2014–2019), provide the basis for the SoW PGR-3.

19. 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,<sup>42</sup> Seventeenth<sup>43</sup> and Eighteenth<sup>44</sup> Regular Sessions. A synthesis progress report on the implementation by countries of the GPA AnGR was presented to the Commission in 2021.<sup>45</sup>

20. For forest genetic resources, the Commission adopted, in 2017, targets, indicators and verifiers for monitoring the implementation of the GPA FGR.<sup>46</sup> It also adopted a schedule for monitoring the GPA FGR.<sup>47</sup> 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.<sup>48</sup> The targets, indicators and verifiers are also being used for gathering data for the preparation of the SoW FGR-2.

21. Targets and indicators for aquatic genetic resources are currently under development and draft indicators will be presented to the Fourth Session of the Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources.

22. The indicators developed by FAO under the Commission's guidance and related information collected by FAO from countries on the status of genetic resources and the implementation of the Commission's action plans 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**.<sup>49</sup>

#### *Information systems*

23. FAO develops and maintains the information systems used for monitoring the implementation of the Commission's GPAs. These global information systems are used by Members for regular reporting of their efforts to implement the GPAs for the conservation, sustainable use and development of sectoral genetic resources and for monitoring the status and trends of these resources. Online information systems have been operational for quite some time for plant (World Information and Early Warning System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture – WIEWS)<sup>50</sup> and animal genetic resources (Domestic Animal Diversity Information System – DAD-IS)<sup>51</sup> and are continually being improved. The prototype of AquaGRIS, a global information system for AqGR, became operational in 2022.<sup>52</sup> 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**

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<sup>41</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Inf.17.1.

<sup>42</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Inf.15.

<sup>43</sup> CGRFA-17/19/11.2/Inf.4.

<sup>44</sup> CGRFA-18/21/10.2/Inf.6.

<sup>45</sup> CGRFA-18/21/10.2/Inf.5.

<sup>46</sup> CGRFA-16/17/Report Rev.1; 2 CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendices A & B*.

<sup>47</sup> CGRFA-16/17/20, *Appendix C*.

<sup>48</sup> CGRFA-17/19/10.2/Inf.1.

<sup>49</sup> C 2017/Rep, Annex E, Resolution 4/2017

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.fao.org/wiews/en/>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.fao.org/dad-is/en/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/home>

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

*Subsidiary bodies and national focal points*

25. The Commission, at its Seventeenth Regular Session, decided to establish the Ad Hoc Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a regular Intergovernmental Technical Working Group in accordance with Article 3(i) of its Statutes.<sup>53</sup>

26. Model terms of reference for national focal points for plant, aquatic and forest genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture and national coordinators for animal genetic resources were adopted at the Commission's Eighteenth Regular Session.<sup>54</sup> Terms of reference for the national focal points to the Commission had already been agreed at the Commission's Fifteenth Regular Session.<sup>55</sup>

27. 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*

28. The governance challenge the Commission faces is the need 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-organisms and invertebrates. Ensuring dialogue and exchange between the Commission's sectoral working groups is another challenge. There is a need not only to ensure that each of these bodies is consulted on topics of cross-sectoral relevance but also to facilitate their cooperation and exchange of information and experiences and enable them to coordinate their advice to the Commission on integrated management approaches for sustainably using and conserving genetic resources and biodiversity for food and agriculture and the ecosystem services they provide in the context of production systems and their surroundings. The lack of coordination between sectoral National Focal Points is reflected at national level in many countries.

29. 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 agriculture and micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources. As requested by the Commission<sup>56</sup>, the Commission's Bureau held informal consultations on the future organization of the Commission's intersessional work in November 2022.<sup>57</sup>

*Special information seminars*

30. 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*

31. 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 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. 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.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, paragraph 51.

<sup>54</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>55</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Report, *Appendix H*.

<sup>56</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 112.

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/informal-open-ended-consultation/en/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/article/pre-geneva-2022-webinars/webinar-feb-17>



32. The Commission has continued to seek synergies, and strengthen its collaboration, with the Treaty. In March 2021, for example, a First International Multi-stakeholder Symposium on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held jointly with the Treaty and the Global Crop Diversity Trust as part of the ongoing efforts of the Commission 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 in November 2022<sup>59</sup> 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.

### Conclusion

33. 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 multiple workstreams of the Commission and for coordinating the Commission’s partnerships and collaboration with other international instruments and organizations. The Commission delivered on each of its work streams, 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.

## II. RELEVANT DEVELOPMENTS IN OTHER FORA

34. Since the completion of the MYPOW 2007–2016, developments have taken place in other fora related to the mandate of the Commission that should 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 Sectors (Mainstreaming Strategy).<sup>60,61</sup> 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).<sup>62,63</sup> The Commission, through its NFP BFA Group, was consulted on the draft Action Plan in the course of 2021.<sup>64</sup> 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.

35. 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.<sup>65</sup> The Commission’s GPAs and, particularly, the FA BFA, play a key role in FAO’s efforts to support its Members in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors.

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<sup>59</sup> <https://www.fao.org/cgrfa/meetings/dsi-workshop-2022/en/>

<sup>60</sup> CL 163/REP, paragraph 10 g.

<sup>61</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/ca7722en>

<sup>62</sup> CL 166/REP, paragraph 24 h.

<sup>63</sup> <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb5515en>

<sup>64</sup> 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.

<sup>65</sup> 2021-23 Action plan for the implementation of the FAO strategy on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors , paragraph 10.

36. During its fifteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD is expected to adopt the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will replace the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Commission may wish to reflect relevant outcomes of the meeting in its Strategic Plan.

### III. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

37. 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 intergovernmental technical 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 work stream addressing new and emerging issues would also allow the Commission to address issues, in particular cross-sectoral issues without having to establish new separate work streams.

### IV. DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN 2023–2031

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

- 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 to the further implementation of the Commission’s instruments, including FAO’s support to countries in mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors and implementing the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework; and
- facilitating cooperation with the Treaty, particularly in the case of the supporting components of the Treaty that are overseen by the Commission.

39. Due to 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 its Nineteenth Regular Session prior to the next session of the FAO Conference.

40. Few adjustments to the main body of the Strategic Plan are suggested, as reflected in Appendix 1 to this document:

- changes to the Mission and the Goals of the Strategic Plan reflecting the adoption of the GPA AqGR and the FA BFA; and
- references to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework reflecting the importance of collaborating with the CBD, and to contributing to the implementation of the Mainstreaming Strategy<sup>66</sup> providing the context for the Commission’s Strategic Plan within FAO’s work on biodiversity.

41. The MYPOW table, as contained in Annex 1 to the Strategic Plan, which now spans the Commission’s next five sessions, including the forthcoming Nineteenth Regular Session, has been updated, including through the following proposed changes:

- in line with the Commission’s request,<sup>67</sup> the review of the Second GPA PGR has been postponed to the Commission’s Twentieth Regular Session;
- in line with the Commission’s Work Plan for the Sustainable Use and Conservation of Micro-organism and Invertebrate Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture,<sup>68</sup> the MYPOW

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/ca7722en/>

<sup>67</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 109.

<sup>68</sup> CGRFA-17/19/Report, Appendix E

foresees consideration of dietary components of food/feed and food processing and agro-industrial processes for the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session, and the review of the Commission's work on micro-organism and invertebrate genetic resources for food and agriculture (MIGR) has been moved to the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session;

- consideration of *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 Session in order to maintain a 10-year interval between global assessments;
- the presentation of SoW AnGR-3, previously foreseen for the Commission's Twentieth Regular Session has been moved to the Commission's Twenty-first Regular Session; the review of the GPA AnGR may be undertaken in parallel with the finalization of the SoW AnGR-3.
- consideration of SoW AqGR-2 is scheduled for the Commission's Twenty-second Regular Session, and the review of the GPA AqGR for the subsequent Session;
- the workstreams on access and benefit-sharing and "Digital sequence information" have been updated in line with the decisions of the Commission at its last session;<sup>69</sup> and
- no further major outputs are foreseen for the workstream on nutrition and health after the Commission's Nineteenth Regular Session; however, it is suggested to include a new work stream on new and emerging issues into the MYPOW, which will allow the Commission to identify topics of particular interest ad hoc and plan their consideration in a coherent manner as part of the MYPOW.

42. In some cases, it is suggested to postpone major outputs. For example, the review of the *Voluntary guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning*, originally scheduled for the Commission's Nineteenth Regular Session, has been postponed to the Twentieth Regular Session due to the modified consultation process.

## V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

43. The Working Group is invited to:

- i. take note of the progress made since the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission in the implementation of the MYPOW;
- ii. review the draft Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031, as given in *Appendix I* to this document and recommend, as appropriate, amendments;
- iii. recommend that the Commission consider agreeing on a procedure for the identification of new and emerging issues for inclusion into the MYPOW; and
- iv. recommend that the Commission invite donors to contribute to the cross-sectoral multi-donor trust fund for the MYPOW.

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<sup>69</sup> CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 23-31

## APPENDIX I

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

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2019–2027)	DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (2019–2027) [(2023–2031)]
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>VISION</b></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 style="text-align: center;"><b>VISION</b></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 style="text-align: center;"><b>MISSION</b></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 style="text-align: center;"><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>Cognizant that <b>[biodiversity, including]</b> 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 <b>[biodiversity for food and agriculture, including]</b> genetic resources <del>for food and agriculture</del>, 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 style="text-align: center;"><b>GOALS</b></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 style="text-align: center;"><b>GOALS</b></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 <b>[Global Plans of Action, the Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture]</b> <del>global action plans on plant, animal and forest genetic resources for food and agriculture</del> and other Commission activities taken in response to the global assessments.</p>

<p><b>Goal 1: Sustainable use:</b> 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.<sup>70</sup></p> <p><b>Goal 2: Conservation:</b> Maintain the diversity of genetic resources for food and agriculture.<sup>71</sup></p> <p><b>Goal 3: Access and benefit-sharing:</b> Promote appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.<sup>72</sup></p> <p><b>Goal 4: Participation:</b> Facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in decision-making.<sup>73</sup></p>	<p><b>Goal 1: Sustainable use:</b> 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.<sup>74</sup></p> <p><b>Goal 2: Conservation:</b> Maintain the diversity of genetic resources [biodiversity for food and agriculture, including the diversity of] genetic resources for food and agriculture.<sup>75</sup></p> <p><b>Goal 3: Access and benefit-sharing:</b> Promote appropriate access to genetic resources for food and agriculture and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.<sup>76</sup></p> <p><b>Goal 4: Participation:</b> Facilitate the participation of relevant stakeholders in decision-making.<sup>77</sup></p>
<b>OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES</b>	<b>OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES</b>

<sup>70</sup> 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.

<sup>71</sup> 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.

<sup>72</sup> 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.

<sup>73</sup> Goal 4 supports SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

<sup>74</sup> 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.

<sup>75</sup> 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.

<sup>76</sup> 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.

<sup>77</sup> Goal 4 supports SDG 16.7: Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

	No proposed changes
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I. RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2019–2027)</b></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).<sup>78</sup> 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;"><b>I. RATIONALE FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN (2019–2027) [(2023–2031)]</b></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[, <b>including the development,</b>] 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).<sup>79</sup> 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 <del>Commission’s</del> 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 <b>[Framework for Action on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Commission’s]</b> 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[, <b>including within the implementation</b></p>

<sup>78</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>79</sup> 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><b>of the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors].</b></p> <p><b>[3bis. With this Strategic Plan the Commission contributes to the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the FAO Strategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors.<sup>80</sup>]</b></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 <del>and in <i>Annex 2</i> more detailed plans for the next two sessions of the Commission.</del></p>
<p><b>II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING</b></p>	<p><b>II. IMPLEMENTING, MONITORING AND REVIEWING</b></p> <p>No proposed changes</p>
<p><b>III. PARTNERSHIPS</b></p>	<p><b>III. PARTNERSHIPS</b></p> <p>No proposed changes</p>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/fr/c/ca7722en/>

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

Workstreams	19th Session (2023)	20th Session (2025)	21st Session (2026/2027)	22nd Session (2028/2029)	23rd Session (2030/2031)
<b>Animal genetic resources</b>			Presentation of SoW AnGR-3 Review of GPA AnGR		
<b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>			Review of implementation of the GPA AqGR	Presentation of SOW AqGR 2	Review of GPA AqGR
<b>Forest genetic resources</b>	Presentation of SoW FGR-2	Review of GPA FGR		Review of implementation of GPA FGR	
<b>Micro-organisms and invertebrates</b>		Dietary components of food/feed; food processing and agro-industrial processes	Review of work on MIGR		Review of work on MIGR
<b>Plant genetic resources</b>	Presentation of SoW PGR-3	Review of Second GPA PGR	Review of implementation of (Second) GPA PGR		Review of implementation (Second) GPA PGR
<b>Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</b>	Follow-up to the SoW BFA		Follow-up to the SoW BFA	Presentation of SoW BFA-2	Follow-up to the SoW BFA
<b>Access and benefit-sharing</b>		Effects of ABS measures on utilization and conservation of GRFA	Update of compilation of ABS country measures		Review of work on ABS
<b>Biotechnologies</b>		Review of the work on biotechnologies for conservation and sustainable use of GRFA		Review of the work on biotechnologies for conservation and sustainable use of GRFA	
<b>“Digital sequence information”*</b>	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
<b>Climate change</b>	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		Review of work on climate change and GRFA
<b>Nutrition and Health</b>	Review of work on GRFA and nutrition and health				
<b>New and emerging issues</b>					
<b>Management</b>	Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan		Progress report on implementation of Strategic Plan; Reporting on SDGs		Progress report/review of the Strategic Plan

\* The term is taken from decision CBD COP XIII/16 and is subject to further discussion. There is a recognition that there are a multiplicity of terms that have been used in this area (including, inter alia, “genetic sequence data”, “genetic sequence information”, “genetic information”, “dematerialized genetic resources”, “in silico utilization”, etc.) and that further consideration is needed regarding the appropriate term or terms to be used.



**Annex 2. Session Planning for CGRFA 20 and 21****Activities in preparation of CGRFA-20 (2025)**

<b>Sectoral matters</b>	
<b>Animal genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the GPA AnGR</li> <li>• Prepare Synthesis progress report on the implementation of the GPA AnGR</li> <li>• Prepare progress report on the Status of preparation of SoW AnGR-3</li> <li>• Prepare Status and trends report 2024</li> </ul>
<b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare first report on the implementation of the GPA AqGR</li> </ul>
<b>Forest genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the GPA FGR</li> <li>• Review of GPA FGR</li> </ul>
<b>Micro-organisms and invertebrates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare studies on Dietary components/ food processing and agro-industrial processes</li> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Plant genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Second GPA PGR</li> <li>• Review of practical guides for the application of the Genebank Standards: conservation of species producing recalcitrant seeds and conservation through cryopreservation</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-sectoral matters</b>	
<b>Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Access and benefit-sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulation of pre-tested country questionnaire on the application of ABS country measures</li> <li>• Preparation of 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</li> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Biotechnologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of the work on biotechnologies and their potential impact or implications on the conservation and sustainable utilization of GRFA</li> </ul>
<b>'Digital sequence information on GRFA'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor developments regarding DSI in other fora, assess their potential implications for sustainable use and conservation of GRFA</li> </ul>
<b>Climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare review of revised Voluntary Guidelines to support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning</li> <li>• Prepare summary of responses to the questionnaire on GRFA and climate change</li> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition and health</b>	
<b>Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare progress report of the Strategic Plan,-MYPOW</li> </ul>
<b>Other matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite international instruments and organizations to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs</li> </ul>

### Activities in preparation of CGRFA-21 (2027)

<b>Sectoral matters</b>	
<b>Animal genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare draft SOW AnGR 3</li> <li>• Review GPA AnGR</li> </ul>
<b>Aquatic genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of implementation of the GPA AqGR</li> </ul>
<b>Forest genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the GPA FGR</li> </ul>
<b>Micro-organisms and invertebrates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of work on micro-organisms and invertebrates</li> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Plant genetic resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare FAO progress report on the implementation of the (Second) GPA PGR</li> <li>• Review of implementation of the (Second) GPA PGR</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-sectoral matters</b>	
<i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare progress report on the implementation-of the follow-up to <i>The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture</i></li> </ul>
<b>Access and benefit-sharing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update of compilation of ABS country measures accommodating this distinctive features of GRFA</li> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Biotechnologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>'Digital sequence information on GRFA'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor developments regarding DSI in other fora, assess their potential implications for sustainable use and conservation of GRFA</li> <li>• Follow-up on recommendations by the Commission on this matter</li> </ul>
<b>Climate change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of work on climate change and GRFA</li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition and health</b>	
<b>Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress report on implementation of Strategic Plan; Reporting on SDGs</li> </ul>
<b>Other matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite international instruments and organizations to report on their work in supporting the activities of the Commission and collate their inputs</li> </ul>