



Global Crop Diversity Trust
Executive Board Meeting (EB/2022/2)
26-27 October 2022, Bonn, Germany
Summary Report

Attending Members of the Executive Board

Catherine Bertini (Chair)
Éliane Ubalijoro
Emma (Emmy) Bartz Simmons
Ismahane Elouafi, FAO Representative (non-voting) (*attending virtually*)
Jean-Christophe Gouache
Joachim von Braun
Marcio de Miranda Santos
Masaru (Masa) Iwanaga
Mercedes Aráoz Fernández
Sonja Vermeulen, CGIAR Representative (non-voting)
Stefan Schmitz (ex officio, Executive Director of the Crop Trust)

Attending Observers

Kent Nnadozie	Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Taek-Ryoun Kwon	Chair of the Crop Trust Donors' Council
Victoria Sant	Chair of the Investment Committee (IC)

Attending Crop Trust Staff

Christoph Beck	Director of Human Resources and Corporate Operations
Dagny Poser	Travel Officer and Assistant to the Executive Director
Hannah Bisset	Head of Communications
Hannes Dempewolf	Director of External Affairs
Janet Muir	Director of Finance
Luigi Guarino	Chief Scientist
Paloma Bertrand	Assistant to the Executive Office, Minute-taker
Sarada Krishnan	Director of Programs

Attending Guests

Charlotte Lusty	Senior Director, Genebanks Initiative, CGIAR
Neal Gutterson	CGIAR System Board Member
Hosun Lee	Senior Researcher, International Technology Cooperation



Summary: Decisions and Actions Arising from EB/2022/2

The status of decisions and actions arising from **EB/2022/2** is provided in the tables below:

No.	Decisions
1	Adoption of the Agenda for the EB/2022/2
2	Adoption of the Minutes and Status of Actions arising from EB/2022/1
3	Approval of the Financing Strategy and the launch of the Fundraising Campaign with funding from reserves of USD 3m for the period 2023-2025
4	Approval of the updated Investment Policy , including the Net Zero target and joining the ESG-related initiatives - TCFD and TNFD
5	Approval of the new Memorandum of Understanding with CGIAR System Organization with the provision that specific modifications will be made to the document
6	Approval of the overall planning of Long-Term Partnership Agreements (LPA) for the years 2022 and 2023
7	Approval of expanding the mandate of the Finance and Audit Committee to include the analysis of the LPA rollout plan
8	Approval of the Work Plan 2023
9	Approval of the following budget and audit matters : Endowment Withdrawal Policy Revised Budget 2022 Budget 2023 The appointment of PWC as external auditor Institutional Risk Matrix 2023
10	Appointment of Eliane Ubalijoro as the new Vice-Chair of the Executive Board Appointment of Jean-Christoph Gouache as an additional Investment Committee member Appointment of Joachim von Braun (Chair), Eliane Ubalijoro and Masa Iwanaga for one year as members of the Governance and Nominating Committee



No.	Actions
1	The Secretariat will prepare a short document outlining the key financials around incremental development of grants to various genebanks and further support to build the Global Genebank System, and the associated targeted milestones of endowment market value and corresponding fundraising targets.
2	The Secretariat will prepare a short document on how the Crop Trust coordinates with CGIAR genebanks to work with national organizations .
3	The Secretariat will revise the document " Crop Trust 2030. An Institutional Strategy " as per the discussions, include annexed results and impact frameworks, and present it to the Board for consideration at its next meeting.
4	The Secretariat will revise the wording on the MoU with CGIAR System Organization , taking into consideration the suggestions and recommendations of the Executive Board.
5	The Secretariat will work to fill the current FAC vacancy with the skill set required to fulfil the extended mandate to scrutinize the LPA rollout in light of fund availability.
6	The Secretariat will prepare a short document that further explains how the organization aims to support essential operations of international genebanks not under CGIAR System Organisation medium- and long-term.
7	The Board postponed the Unrestricted Reserve Policy decision and asked the Secretariat to bring it to the next Board meeting with revised rationale and calculation for the proposed level of reserves.
8	The Secretary will email Executive Board members to request feedback on their availability and confirm the precise dates for the next Executive Board meeting without delay.



EB/2022/2-1

Welcome, Introduction, and Adoption of the Agenda

The Board Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

Ismahane Elouafi joined the meeting virtually.

Bernard Lehmann was unable to attend due to illness.

DECISION 1: The Executive Board adopted the Agenda for EB/2022/2.

EB/2022/2-2

EB – CGIAR Dialogue

Board Members and representatives from the CGIAR System Organization discussed key elements of future cooperation between the Crop Trust and CGIAR.

The Board Chair introduced the agenda item highlighting the interesting discussion from the Crop Trust – CGIAR – Donors Dialogue the day before and commended the interaction between the Crop Trust and CGIAR. She underlined that the reactions from donors were positive in regards to the message sent by both organizations.

The Executive Director gave a brief overview of the Crop Trust 2030 Strategy.

Ms. Sonja Vermeulen, Managing Director of Genetic Innovation, CGIAR added that CGIAR is keen to codesign standards and quality assurance mechanisms, and emphasized working towards a coordinated approach.

The Board engaged in a lively discussion, inter alia on changes that need to be made in the language of the MoU, on the need for support to national genebanks, and on the importance of a continuing focus on conservation and availability.

The Executive Director provided insights about initial conversations with the Secretariat of the Plant Treaty on the idea of launching a Global Panel on Crop Diversity to help guide the organization's work. He assured CGIAR cooperation in this matter.

ACTION 1: The Secretariat will prepare a short document outlining the key financials around incremental development of grants to various genebanks and further support to build the Global Genebank System, and the associated targeted milestones of endowment market value and corresponding fundraising targets.

ACTION 2: The Secretariat will prepare a short document on how the Crop Trust coordinates with CGIAR genebanks to work with national organizations.

EB/2022/2-3

Minutes and Actions Arising from EB/2022/1

The Board Chair introduced the Minutes and Actions Arising from EB/2022/1. The minutes were duly approved.

DECISION 2: The Board adopted the Minutes and noted the Actions arising from EB/2022/1.



EB/2022/2-4

Updates from Partners of the Crop Trust

Partners were invited to give updates.

FAO

Ismahane Elouafi presented a brief update from FAO by introducing its Strategic Framework 2022-2031 and outlining three of its global initiatives:

- Agrifood Systems Technologies and Innovations Outlook
- Marginal Agricultural Areas - drylands, mountains, and small islands
- Strategic Participatory Foresight: understanding new technologies and innovations to change agrifood systems.

CGIAR

Ms. Sonja Vermeulen pointed to the upcoming CGIAR System Council meeting, during which adequate funding for genebanks in the coming years would be discussed. She gave an overview of the restructuring of the CGIAR and the consolidation of its leadership and explained that the goal is to simplify governance and decision-making while making it more responsive to the needs of developing countries. She also mentioned that it is appreciated that the Crop Trust would like to seek membership on the System Council but that the amount of funding it provides is not sufficient as per current rules. It was suggested to have a follow-up bilateral conversation about this.

Plant Treaty

The Secretary of the Plant Treaty, Mr. Kent Nnadozie, reported that the last session of the Governing Body took place in September in Delhi, India. He briefly described the specific resolution providing policy guidance to the Crop Trust and added that one of the key outcomes from the session was the re-establishment of a working group on the enhancement of the MLS, which will hold discussions that are critical to the work of the CGIAR and the Crop Trust. The next session of the Governing Body will be in November 2023 in Rome, Italy.

Mr. Nnadozie also reported that the Governing Body confirmed the reappointment of Mr. Masa Iwanaga and Ms. Éliane Ubalijoro as Members of the Executive Board for a second term.

Donors' Council

The Chair of the Donors' Council presented a brief update focusing on the outcomes from the Donors' Council meeting held in Bonn on 25 October 2022. The topics discussed by the Council included:

- Need for genebanks to safety-duplicate and store seeds at two levels in case of unforeseen events such as wars, and strategies brought up by the Executive Director to meet this need.
- Key recommendations for a new Financing Strategy for the Crop Trust.
- Implementation of a strong fundraising campaign.
- The Crop Trust's plans for future capacity-building initiatives.
- Financial status of the Crop Trust and appointment of the new members of both the FAC and IC committees.



In addition, the Chair of the Donors' Council reported that the Donor's Council reappointed Mercedes Aráoz and Jean-Christophe Gouache as members of the Executive Board.

EB/2022/2-5

Setting the Scene for the Two-Day Meeting

and

EB/2022/2-6

Crop Trust 2030. An Institutional Strategy

The Executive Director merged the two items. He explained that the strategy presented is intended to determine the direction of the Crop Trust over the next eight years, and the key elements of the strategy will be addressed in separate agenda items at the Board meeting.

The goals of the Crop Trust 2030 Strategy were outlined:

- Long-term support for maintenance of essential genebank operations
- Time-bound support for upgrading, collecting, and use
- Increasing global awareness of the importance of crop diversity

The Executive Director clarified that the document was intended as an internal guide to be shared with Crop Trust staff, the Board, and for genebank partners and donors.

ACTION 3: The Secretariat will revise the document "Crop Trust 2030. An Institutional Strategy" as per the discussions, include annexed results and impact frameworks, and present it to the Board for consideration at its next meeting.

EB/2022/2-7

Crop Trust Financing Strategy 2030

The Secretariat introduced the Financing Strategy, operating as an Annex to the Crop Trust 2030 Institutional Strategy, and welcomed Charlie Michaud from CCS Fundraising, a firm providing advice to the Crop Trust on fundraising. Mr. Michaud gave a presentation to expand on this topic.

The Secretariat recommended that the Board approves the financing strategy and funding to initially resource this campaign for the first three years.

DECISION 3: The Board approved the Financing Strategy and the launch of the Fundraising Campaign with funding from reserves summing up to a total of USD 3m for 3 years

EB/2022/2-8

Investment Committee Report

The Chair of the Investment Committee (IC) Victoria Sant introduced this agenda item.

The Secretariat presented an overview of the activities of the IC since the last meeting of the Board in March 2022. It provided a brief context for this session that would also inform the next day's session on the Finance Report, which included:



- Investment Management update
- Investment Policy changes
- Sustainable Investment Framework
- Net Zero Carbon by 2040

The items presented for Board approval were:

- Investment Policy incorporating the Sustainable Investment Framework
- Setting a Net Zero target of 2040 and adopting the 2025 and 2030 interim targets specified by the European Policy Decarbonization Curve
- Becoming a supporter of the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

DECISION 4: The Board approved the updated Investment Policy, the Net Zero target and interim targets, and approved joining the proposed ESG-related TCFD and TNFD initiatives.

EB/2022/2-9

Science, Partnerships & Communications: Highlights 2022 and Outlook

The Secretariat introduced this agenda item and gave an update on the work of the Science team, focusing on both long-term funding of genebanks from the endowment and project work, including:

- the BOLD Project
- the Seeds for Resilience project
- the Templeton Pre-breeding project
- the Crop Conservation Strategies project
- the Darwin Initiative project

The Secretariat then provided an overview of partnerships highlights and the work being done by the Communications unit.

This item was for information only.

EB/2022/2-10

New Memorandum of Understanding with One-CGIAR

The Secretariat delivered a presentation that delineated the development of the new Memorandum of Understanding with CGIAR System Organisation (“One-CGIAR”) as a framework for future collaboration.

The new MoU is being developed in light of the CGIAR Genebank Platform ending in 2021 and the expiration of the previous MoU. The new MoU aims to promote cooperation between the Crop Trust and the CGIAR System Organization for funding, maintenance, and availability of the Article 15 collections managed by Centers that are part of the One-CGIAR governance mechanism.

Four areas of cooperation were identified and described:



- Funding the essential operations of Article 15 genebanks managed under One-CGIAR
- Joint Fundraising
- Program Development and Management
- Public Awareness

The draft MoU was recommended for approval by the Board. The Board proposed several changes to the document.

ACTION 4: The Secretariat will revise the wording on the MoU with CGIAR System Organization, taking into consideration the suggestions and recommendations of the Executive Board.

DECISION 5: The Board approved the MoU with CGIAR System Organization with the provision that specific modifications will be made to the document.

EB/2022/2-11

Foresight on Long-Term Agreements with CGIAR and Other International Genebanks

Presented by the Secretariat, this document aims to provide the plan for setting up long-term agreements with CGIAR and other international genebanks. This presentation served as a continuation of the preceding session.

The Secretariat illustrated the organization's plans and goals around Long-term Grants (LTGs) and Long-term Partnership Agreements (LPAs) and compared hypothetical budget planning scenarios depending on funding availability.

The Board discussed expanding the mandate of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) to include the scrutiny of planned LPAs in light of fund availability and preparing recommendations to the Board on the prioritization of LPAs. The FAC will work with the Secretariat on the LPA rollout plan and report to the Board at its next meeting.

DECISION 6: The Board approved the overall planning of Long-Term Agreements for the years 2022 and 2023 and tentative projections for the years 2024 and 2025.

DECISION 7: The Board approved expanding the mandate of the Finance and Audit Committee to include the analysis of the LPA rollout plan.

ACTION 5: The Secretariat will work to fill the current FAC vacancy with the skill set required to fulfill the extended mandate to scrutinize the LPA rollout in light of fund availability.

ACTION 6: The Secretariat will prepare a short document that further explains how the organization aims to support essential operations of international genebanks not under CGIAR System Organization medium- and long-term.

EB/2022/2-12

Work Plan 2023

The Executive Director presented the Work Plan 2023.

DECISION 8: The Board approved the Work Plan 2023.



EB/2022/2-13

Finance and Audit Committee Report

The Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), Mercedes Aráoz, delivered opening remarks and outlined the topics to be presented for discussion.

The Secretariat presented the FAC Report, including an overview of the activities of the FAC since the last Board meeting in March 2022. The Report included the following items:

- Unrestricted Reserve Policy
- The Endowment Withdrawal Policy
- Revised Budget 2022
- Multi-year Budget 2023-2025
- Appointment of PWC as external auditors.
- Institutional Risk Assessment and Matrix 2023.

DECISION 9: The Board approved the following:

- The Endowment Withdrawal Policy
- Revised Budget 2022
- Budget 2023, budgets for 2024 and 2025 were noted.
- The appointment of PWC as external auditor
- Institutional Risk Matrix 2023

ACTION 7: The Board postponed the **Unrestricted Reserve Policy** decision and asked the Secretariat to bring it to the next Board meeting with a revised rationale and calculation for the proposed level of reserves.

EB/2022/2-14

HR & Corporate Operations Report

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed to be discussed at the next Board meeting.

This session was for information only.

EB/2022/2-15

Any other Business, Next Meetings, Summary of the Two-Day Meeting, and Conclusions

Board members discussed the logistics of the next meeting. The Executive Director proposed having the next Board meeting at CIAT in Colombia. Members agreed to provide feedback on their availability.

The Board Chair wrapped up the meeting by sharing positive closing remarks, summarizing the significant decisions taken and the goals for the near future.

ACTION 8: The Secretary will email Board members to request feedback on their availability and confirm the precise dates without delay.



EB/2022/2-16

Board Business Session (members only)

DECISION 10:

- Appointment of Eliane Ubalijoro as the new Vice-Chair of the Executive Board
- Appointment of Jean-Christoph Gouache as an additional Investment Committee member
- Appointment of Joachim von Braun (Chair), Eliane Ubalijoro, and Masa Iwanaga for one year as members of the Governance and Nominating Committee