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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Global Crop Diversity Trust Announces New Board**

*Top-level international Executive Board is assembled to take forward the challenge of conserving the world's crop diversity*

ROME, ITALY (16 February 2007) — The Global Crop Diversity Trust announced today the confirmation of eight new Board members, representing the highest levels of the corporate, academic and political worlds. Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai is among those who will serve on the Trust's highest body.

Until now, the Trust has reported to an Interim Panel of Eminent Experts, which acted as the Executive Board. The new Board will meet for the first time in April. The Trust's Board is comprised of four members nominated by the Donors' Council, and four members nominated by the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

In addition to the eight members listed below, Prof. Cary Fowler, Executive Secretary of the Trust, will serve in an ex officio capacity, and the Director General of FAO and the Chair of the CGIAR will also shortly nominate two further, non-voting, members. The Trust's Executive Board meets for the first time in April, and will be able to choose two further members to supplement the experience and background already represented.

Cary Fowler, Executive Secretary of the Trust, said: "The world has taken notice of the challenges facing agriculture, such as climate change, and this has raised awareness of crop diversity and its importance to food security. Over 100 countries have been represented in the selection process for our Executive Board. The quality of the Board is a demonstration of the importance of the issues, as well as a cause for optimism that crop diversity, through the Trust, will soon be secured forever."

## **Global Crop Diversity Trust**

### **Profiles\* of Members of the Executive Board**

Dr. Margaret Catley-Carlson

Chair, Global Water Partnership  
President, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)  
Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF (rank of Assistant Secretary General – UN)  
Member, UN Secretary General’s Task Force on Water  
President, Population Council  
Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Welfare, Canada

Mr. Lewis Coleman

President, DreamWorks Animation  
Founding President, Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation  
Vice Chairman, and Chief Financial Officer, Bank of America  
Head of International Banking, Wells Fargo Bank  
Board Member, Northrup Grumman and Chiron Corporations  
Pioneered debt-for-nature swaps

Sir Peter Crane

Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew  
Member, The Royal Society  
Foreign Associate of US National Academy of Sciences and Royal Swedish  
Academy of Sciences  
Director, Field Museum  
Professor, University of Chicago

Amb. Jorio Dauster

Ambassador of Brazil to European Union  
Chief Negotiator of Brazil’s foreign debt for Ministry of Economy, Planning and  
Finance  
President of the Brazilian Coffee Institute  
Coordinator of the Project for Modernization of Brazil’s Patent System  
Chair of Board, Brasil Ecodiesel  
Chair of Board, Arnaud & Co.

Prof. Adel El-Beltagy

Director General, ICARDA (Syria)  
Chair, Global Forum on Agricultural Research  
Under Secretary of State for Land Reclamation (Egypt)  
Director/Board Chair, Agricultural Research Center (Egypt)  
Fellow, Third World Academy of Sciences

Prof. Cary Fowler (ex officio)

Executive Director, Global Crop Diversity Trust  
Professor and Director of Research, Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Drafted FAO's State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources, and Global Plan of Action  
Chair, international committee for planning of Svalbard Global Seed Vault  
CGIAR Representative in negotiations for International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources

Prof. John Lovett

Professor Emeritus, University of New England  
Chair, Cooperative Research Centre for National Plant Biosecurity  
Managing Director, Grains Research and Development Corporation  
President, Australian Agronomy Society  
Chair, Oilseeds Research Council

Prof. Wangari Maathai

Nobel Peace Prize laureate, 2004  
Member of Parliament (Kenya)  
Assistant Minister of Environment and Natural Resources  
Founder, Green Belt Movement  
Recipient, Right Livelihood Award, Global 500 Roll of Honor, Goldman Prize, Edinburgh Medal, Africa Prize, Sophie Prize, Legion d'Honneur.

Mr. Karl Erik Olsson

Minister of Agriculture (Sweden)  
Member of Parliament (Sweden)  
Member, European Parliament  
Farmer

\*Affiliations listed provide highlights of past and present professional activities