

**Global Crop Diversity Trust
Executive Board Meeting (EB/2015/2)
27-28 October 2015, Rome, Italy**

Summary

Attending Members of the Executive Board

Amb. Walter Fust (Chair)
Amb. Tim Fischer (Vice Chair)
Peter Crane
Gebisa Ejeta
Prem Lal Gautam Alexander Müller
Mary-Ann Sayoc
Knut Storberget
Ren Wang
Marie Haga (Executive Director of the Crop Trust)

Apologies

Lew Coleman
Mauricio Lopes

Attending Crop Trust staff

Luigi Guarino	Senior Scientist
Michael Koch	Director of Finance (and Secretary of the Donors' Council)
Janet Muir	Finance Manager
Layla Daoud	Corporate Operations Manager
Julia Greene	Partnerships Intern
Nella Bause	Personal Assistant to the Executive Director
Gerald Moore	Legal Advisor

Attending Observers

Jaap Satter	Chair of the Donors' Council
Muhamad Sabran	Chair of the Governing Body of the International Plant Treaty
Shakeel Bhatti	Secretary of the International Plant Treaty (participating partly)

1. Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of the Agenda

- The Chair welcomed participants and introduced the new Chair of the Governing Body of the International Plant Treaty who attended the meeting as an Observer.
- The Chair briefly summarized the outcome of the Donors' Council meeting held on 26 October 2015 in joint session with the Executive Board.

2. Minutes and Actions Arising from EB/2015/1

- Ms. Haga provided an oral update on the actions arising from EB/2015/1, with a particular reference to the suggested need for guiding policies. She suggested that there is at present no need for additional guiding strategies beyond the organization's well-defined mandate and work plan. At the same time, Ms. Haga proposed to hold a more frequent dialogue with the Executive Board to seek informal feedback on pertinent matters.
- Members agreed with this suggestion, and the Chair proposed to add an item on "Reflection on broader issues" to each successive agenda of the Executive Board.

3. Science Report

- Mr. Guarino provided an update on the Crop Trust's scientific work. He summarized that ten of the eleven CGIAR genebanks have been reviewed; Recommendation Action Plans (RAPs) are underway for six of these centers; a parity study to examine funding allocations among CGIAR genebanks is in process; and Svalbard seed deposits continue. Mr. Guarino explained the importance of the Crop Trust's core focus on genebank operations and storage procedures (specifically on quality management and seed longevity), which has a significant impact on the efficiency and cost of running a genebank. He highlighted that much of this work also benefits national and regional genebanks.
- Mr. Guarino recalled that the current CGIAR genebanks partnership is set to expire at the end of 2016 and outlined expectations for a successor genebank program, which has been put forward by the Crop Trust and genebank partners to the CGIAR Fund Council.

4. Partnerships and Communications Report

- Following a summary of the outcomes from the 13th meeting of the Crop Trust Donors' Council held the prior day, Mr. Koch provided an update on the Crop Trust's outreach with donor partners. This included an overview of fundraising targets and current prospects for mobilizing new endowment contributions leading up to the Pledging Conference on 14 April 2016.
- Mr. Koch described the ongoing work of the Communications Team to build up further momentum towards the Pledging Conference. The organization's new website is highly visual and has received awards, with web traffic to the site increasing progressively; user visits on the Crop Trust's YouTube, Twitter and Facebook sites are also rising; there has been a significant increase in TV, radio and print coverage globally, especially since the ICARDA seeds withdrawal from Svalbard; the monthly Newsletter reaches more than 10,000 recipients; and communications

work includes projects such as Crop Wild Relatives and Genesys. A dedicated website regarding the Crop Trust Pledging Conference is being launched.

- Members commended the organization's continuous outreach efforts, particularly in relation to the upcoming Pledging Conference, and for organizing a successful Donors' Council meeting on 26 October 2015.

5. Finance and Investment Report

- Ms. Muir updated the Board on the Crop Trust's financial developments, including a revised 2015 budget and a multi-year budget 2016-2018, and memoranda of the Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) meetings from 12 October 2015, 22 June 2015 and 26 March 2015.
- Ms. Muir updated the Board on the endowment performance.
- Ms. Muir outlined the assumptions incorporated into the multi-year budgets 2016-2018 and the Board considered and approved the multi-year budgets 2016-2018.
- The EB noted that the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2014 were approved by the Board by email circulation and were signed on behalf of the Board by the Executive Director and Director of Finance on 13 April 2015.

6. Work Plan 2016

- Ms. Haga presented the Work Plan for 2016. She highlighted the essential role of the Pledging Conference through April 2016. The Pledging Conference concentrates mainly on governments. After the Pledging Conference, the Crop Trust will fully engage with private donor partners, in particular through a crop-based approach.
- On the administrative side, Ms. Haga said the goal is to keep up the good work in Finance, HR and Operations. The tendering for full investment services and employment of an investment professional will be prioritized.
- Lastly Ms. Haga emphasized the administration's desire to contribute to an over all well functioning system for Plant Genetic Resources.
- Members encouraged an analysis on the role of the Crop Trust within the context of the multilateral system of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. They emphasized the necessity for complementary work between the International Plant Treaty, the CGIAR, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Crop Trust for the system to be effective.

7. Institutional Risk Management Matrix

- Ms. Muir gave an overview on the institutional risk management matrix, its methodology, process and purpose. The goal of the matrix is to ensure there are appropriate policies in place to identify, address and mitigate risks where possible. The Senior Management Team, in conjunction with the individual teams, has undertaken an assessment of risks for 2016 over the following six categories – performance, governance, finance and investment, operations, programs, fundraising and communication.

8. Human Resources and Corporate Operations Report

- Ms. Daoud updated the Board on the Crop Trust staff composition and staff movements during 2015. Ms. Daoud informed that the staff member occupying the position of Deputy Executive Director will move in January 2016 but will remain on staff as scientific advisor.
- Ms. Daoud informed that the Crop Trust will obtain additional office space within the current building and that the Secretariat is requesting a formal security assessment of the current building through the German Foreign Office.
- Ms. Daoud informed the Board that the Crop Trust is now a formally registered member with the International Labor Organization Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT). Further, the Crop Trust logo is now registered with the trademark division of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

9. Update of Strategic Work Plan 2014-2024

- Ms. Haga introduced the updated Strategic Work Plan by recalling the previous version, which was adopted in 2013 with a commitment to update it as necessary. The motivations for update at this stage are the adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the upcoming Pledging Conference. There is also a need to develop the organization's own performance indicators.
- The Board agreed with the importance of revising this document, particularly as it relates to the Sustainable Development Goals.

10. Board Business

- Mr. Koch presented briefly an overview of the organization's proposed Privileges and Immunities document.
- Ms. Daoud presented information on the organization's Directors and Officers liability insurance and informed that an assessment of the coverage was conducted in 2015 and determined that the coverage was appropriate in terms of scope and level of cover.
- The Chair announced that the Donors' Council of the Crop Trust approved Ambassador Tim Fischer's re-appointment to the Executive Board. He requested Members' endorsement for Mr. Fischer's re-appointment to the role as Vice Chair of the Board.

11. Any Other Business

- Members reviewed and finalized the letter drafted to the CGIAR Consortium.
- Members discussed their preference for receiving Board papers in the future. Ms. Haga announced that FIC meetings will take place one additional week earlier in advance of Board meetings to ensure that all Board documents can be issued as one single package.