

## Minutes of the 19th<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Donors' Council of the Global Crop Diversity Trust

23 October 2018, Rome, Italy

The Donors' Council of the Global Crop Diversity Trust ('Crop Trust') met on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2018 at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The meeting was chaired by the Netherlands, and attended by representatives of donor parties, and observers. A list of those in attendance can be found in Annex 1. Annex 2 shows the meeting agenda. Several background papers were issued to invitees prior to the meeting.

### 1. Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair of the Donors' Council, Mr. Hans Hoogeveen, opened the meeting, and extended a welcome to all participants. The goals of the 19th meeting were to engage with the Donors' Council on the Crop Trust's fundraising progress in 2018, and to seek guidance on future fundraising efforts, including reviewing the financial and budget reports. The Chair thanked participants for being present and called for lively discussion. He expressed disappointment regarding the fact that members of the Crop Trust Secretariat were not present at the highest level. Participants were informed that the Crop Trust Executive Board Chair, Tim Fischer could not attend this meeting for health reasons and Ms. Marie Haga, Executive Director of the Crop Trust had to be present in Bonn for the Finance & Investment Committee meeting, as well as the Executive Board meeting. Participants were disappointed that the Executive Director and some others from her team couldn't participate in the meeting. The chair will discuss with the Executive Director and Secretariat of the Crop Trust a better planning of meetings and to avoid convening meetings which intervene with meetings of the Council.

Additionally, in his opening remarks, the Chair suggested that Donors' Council meeting participants discuss the structure and governance of the Donors' Council. Members expressed interest in making the Donors' Council more inclusive, specifically with youth and recipient countries, and that all Donors' Council meetings be held in Rome.

With regard to location of meetings the Secretary to the Donors' Council (Crop Trust Head of Partnerships) responded by referring to the Rules and Procedures of the Crop Trust Donors' Council, which state that:

*The meetings of the Donors' Council shall be held at the Headquarters of the Trust, unless otherwise decided by the Donors' Council, or by the Chairperson, in consultation with the members of the Donors' Council and the Executive Secretary.*

The agenda for the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Donors' Council was adopted and approval of the Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Crop Trust Donors' Council held on 14-15 June 2018 was deferred due to members stating that they were not aware of the discussions that took place at the last meeting. The Crop Trust Secretariat noted that both participants of the Bonn meeting and the Rome-based Donors' Council representatives did receive the minutes from the previous meeting and that the only feedback received was from Switzerland, which had been integrated into the Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Donors' Council.

Members of the Donors' Council expressed strong preference for organizing the upcoming Donors' Council meetings in Rome. The Rome location would also be the practical choice, as it would facilitate the participation of recipient countries, and youth representatives, as discussed in the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Donor Council in June 2018.

The chair concluded that the Spring meeting of the Crop Trust Donors' Council will be convened in Rome.

## **2. Looking Back and Ahead: Achievements in 2018 & 2019 Priorities**

Members of the Crop Trust Secretariat presented a review of Crop Trust activities in 2018. The Communications Manager highlighted activities from the reception with His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at Clarence House in January, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the 1<sup>st</sup> Food Forever Annual Meeting in Wilmington, Delaware, the Food Forever Experience: NYC, and the announcement of the Long-Term Partnership agreement with IRRI.

The Head of Partnerships presented the fundraising goals and work plan of the Crop Trust in 2019. As decided at the 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Donor Council, the Crop Trust Secretariat will provide an update and recommendations from the Innovative Finance Working Group (IFWG) at the Spring Donors' Council meeting in 2019. The aim of the Crop Trust is to add at least two new members to the Donors' Council on an annual basis. In 2018, this goal was achieved with the first financial contributions from Finland and the European Commission who will now gain Donors' Council Membership. KfW provided additional details on the German contributions to the endowment in 2018, as well as on a joint project proposal with GCF and BMZ. Similar efforts are also underway in Latin America and Asia.

Participants inquired about how the impact and success of campaigns like the Food Forever Initiative (FFI) is measured. Participants also requested more information about the differences between the Crop Trust and FFI activities. Since the FFI is a public private partnership (of which the Crop Trust is an active member) and it is a joint effort of stakeholders focused on implementation of SDG target 2.5., the Chair mentioned the funding of e.g. an awareness campaign under FFI as an example how it could support the work of the Crop Trust. In response to this inquiry, the Head of Partnerships and the Communications Manager described the distinctions between the Crop Trust and FFI. The Crop Trust is only one of three partners in the Secretariat and the Food Forever has

additionally a separate governance structure (Board of Overseers). Additionally implementation of the Crop Trust mandate is essential for implementation of SDG 2.5.

The Donor Council members asked clarification on criteria for Donor Council membership. The point in case is the European Commission that is not a government (requires USD 25 000 in contribution) nor a foundation or company (requires USD 250 000) in contribution. The Crop Trust Secretariat was asked to prepare a report on the scope and structure of the governance of the Donors' Council for the next meeting.

Participants discussed the location of the next meeting and noted that this conversation should be continued at the Spring Donor Council.

The Donors' Council recognized the Crop Trust's achievements in 2018 and asked for a more results-based report of activities for future meetings.

The Donors' Council also took note of the Crop Trust's priorities for 2019.

The chair complimented the Trust with their activities in 2018. He concluded that:

- A more detailed report on the achievements in 2018 based on results and impacts is desirable
- A more results oriented workplan for 2019 is desirable, which should include clear priorities, available funding a foreseen results and impact. The Council postponed its approval of the priorities for 2019 until a more detailed workplan is received.

### **3. Finance and Budget: Institutional Budgets and Endowment Fund**

The Secretariat presented a review of current and projected finances for the Crop Trust, including an update on the status of the endowment fund, investment management, UN PRI assessment, revised budget for 2018 and the multi-year budget for 2019-2021.

The valuation of the Crop Trust endowment fund, as of 31 August 2018, is USD 290 million, including a 50 million EUR concessional loan from KfW.

The Finance and Investment Manager informed the Donors' Council that Investment management remains strong, with an active Finance & Investment Committee and a comprehensive Responsible Investment Policy. In March 2018, the Crop Trust submitted its annual United Nations Principles of Responsible Investment report. The UN PRI result for the 2017/2018 report was that the Crop Trust received an overall "A" rating, which demonstrated considerable progress.

The Finance and Investment Manager also gave the Donors' Council an overview of the Crop Trust's revised budget for 2018, including the key assumptions, variance analysis of total expenditure, and management and general services expenditures. There was a slight increase in expenditures for

2018 due primarily to increase in program activities linked to the Genebank Platform and the Crop Wild Relatives project (CWR). There was a reduction in management and general expenditures and a slight increase in fundraising that has been matched by corresponding income.

The Finance and Investment Manager presented the Multi-year budget for 2019-2021. She informed the Donors' Council that the Crop Trust is planning a breakeven budget and is focusing on raising program and operational support to reduce the drawdown from the endowment. presented an Income and Expenditure Analysis for the Multi-year budgets 2019-2021.

The Chair of the Donors' Council concluded as follows:

- The Council thanked the secretariat for the overview of the financial issues related to the Crop Trust
- asked the Crop Trust Secretariat to prepare a paper with the possibilities of shared services, to reduce costs, as well as an overview document of the current project portfolio and information on how current and future projects relate to the mandate of the Crop Trust, to be discussed in the next meeting of the Council.

#### **4. Resource Mobilization: Progress from the Donors' Council & Innovative Finance Working Group.**

The Head of Partnerships presented an update on the Crop Trust Secretariat's efforts and initiatives to establish a more diversified and sustainable funding base to safeguard crop diversity, forever by providing an update of the work of the Innovative Finance Working Group. This included an update on a Food Security Bond, Member Country Loans, crowd-sourcing related efforts, debt-swaps, targeted crop strategies to enhance private sector engagement, co-funding opportunities the Investment Sharing Facility. He presented the preliminary outcomes of the IFWG and informed the Donors' Council that the IFWG will meet again on 6 December 2018 as well as in the Spring of 2019 before the next meeting of the Donors' Council. More information on each of the Innovative Finance Mechanisms can be found in background document number 1 distributed to the Members of the Donors' Council.

There was discussion regarding the approval process from the Donors' Council for starting new initiatives and piloting innovative finance mechanisms due to the fact that the success, or failure, of these initiatives directly influences the image of the Crop Trust. Members stated that the Donors' Council did not formally approve the start of new initiatives and would like to remain closely informed on any new idea and initiative, in order to make well informed decisions.

The Secretariat confirmed that the report would be discussed at the spring Donors' Council meeting. The final decision on which mechanisms to pursue will be made by the Crop Trust Executive Board.

The chair concluded as follows:

- The Donors' Council took note of new initiatives undertaken by the Crop Trust
- The Donors' Council underlined its need to discuss new initiatives and innovative finance mechanisms before implementation

## 5. Conclusions and Next Steps

The Chair asked the Crop Trust Secretariat and the Plant Treaty Secretariat to explore the interface and strategy between the Crop Trust and the Treaty, including options for further cooperation. The Secretary of the Governing Body of the Treaty and the Head of Partnerships of the Crop Trust noted that both organizations are closely working together. One example is an ongoing collaboration with regard to the Treaty's Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy and Resource Mobilization and the fact that the Treaty is represented as Observer on the Crop Trust Donors Council and Executive Board.

The exact date of the Spring Donors' Council meeting in Rome will be discussed and scheduled with the circulation of the minutes. Management will as always discuss plans for the next meeting based in consultation with the Chair of the Donors' Council. The Head of Partnerships of the Crop Trust and the Chair of the Donors' Council thanked participants for their meaningful and active involvement. The Chair closed the meeting.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

Affiliation	Name	Role
Australia, DFAT	Rosie Staude	Second Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations
Switzerland, EDA	François Pythoud	Ambassador, Perm. Rep. of Switzerland to the FAO, IFAD, and WFP
Germany, KfW	Lena Reiplinger	
Brazil	Renata Negrelly Nogueira	Alternate Perm. Rep. of Brazil to the FAO
Netherlands, MoFA	Hans Hoogeveen Kim van Seeters	Ambassador, Perm. Rep. of the Netherlands to the FAO Senior Policy Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Kent Knadozie	Secretary of the Governing Body
Spain	Antonio Flores Lorenzo	Alternate Perm. Rep. of Spain to the FAO
Bioversity International, CGIAR	Anne Tutwiler	Director General, Bioversity International
The Crop Trust	Sebastian Winkler	Head of Partnerships
The Crop Trust	Erin Gleeson	Partnerships Fellow
The Crop Trust	Dezreen Cameron-Stein	Finance and Investment Manager
The Crop Trust	Luis Salazar	Communications Manager

## Annex 2: Meeting Agenda

## 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Crop Trust Donors' Council Agenda

**23 October 2018**  
Rome, Italy

Time	Topic
9:00	<b>1. Registration</b>
9:30	<b>2. Welcome, Introduction and Adoption of Agenda and Minutes</b> Approval of the minutes from the 18 <sup>th</sup> Donors' Council meeting held on 14-15 June 2018. <b>Hans Hoogeveen</b> , Chair of the Crop Trust Donors' Council
9:45	<b>3. Looking Back and Ahead: Achievements in 2018 &amp; 2019 Priorities</b> <b>Luis Salazar and Erin Gleeson</b> , Crop Trust Secretariat
10:15	<b>4. Finance and Budget: Institutional Budgets and Endowment Fund</b> <b>Dezreen Cameron-Stein</b> , Finance and Investment Manager at the Crop Trust
11:00	<b>5. Resource Mobilization: Progress from the Donors' Council &amp; Innovative Finance Working Group</b> <b>Sebastian Winkler</b> , Head of Partnerships at the Crop Trust  Innovative Finance Mechanisms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food Security Bond (FSB)</li> <li>2. Member Country Loans (MCL)</li> <li>3. Crowd-Sourcing Campaign</li> <li>4. Debt Swaps</li> <li>5. Crop Strategies</li> <li>6. Co-funding</li> <li>7. Investment Sharing Facility (ISF)</li> </ol>
11:45	<b>6. Conclusions and Next Steps</b>
12:00	<b>7. Light Lunch</b>