



**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST**

Financial Statements for the year ended  
31 December 2023



## GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Statement from the Executive Board Chair.....	3
Board Statement on Risk Management .....	4
Management Statement of Responsibility for Financial Statements .....	5
Independent Auditor's Report.....	6
Statement of Financial Position.....	9
Statement of Activities & Other Comprehensive Income .....	10
Statement of Changes in Net Assets .....	11
Statement of Cashflow .....	12
Notes to the Financial Statements .....	13

## Statement from the Executive Board Chair

The Crop Trust experienced another year of excellent progress in 2023 in our mission to fortify the global genebank system. We owe this success to the unwavering dedication of our staff and partners, whose tireless efforts, along with the generous contributions of our donors, drive our ambitious agenda.

Genebanks play a pivotal role in ensuring the climate resilience of our food systems, and hence global food security. They serve as repositories of crop diversity, which is essential for the future sustenance and prosperity of humanity. Our work remains indispensable in conserving these vital agricultural resources across the globe, empowering breeders and researchers to develop resilient crop varieties and enabling farmers to cultivate diverse crops capable of feeding a growing population in the face of climate change.

While our technical endeavours are critical to our impact, they are not the only thing we do. Raising awareness of the importance of crop diversity is also an important part of our work. In 2023, I was delighted to see crop diversity garnering attention at key international events, such as Africa's Food Systems Forum 2023, the NYC Climate Week, the UN Climate Conference (COP28) and the Global Crop Diversity Summit. These platforms allowed us to underscore the significance of our mission and spur collective action to address the intertwined challenges of food insecurity, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

We are grateful for the continued support and engagement of our expanding community of donors. Their contributions to our endowment fund, combined with strong investment returns, allowed it to grow in value from USD 277 million to USD 305 million. While this is indeed a significant sum, it is important to remember that sustaining genebanks is not a one-time purchase, but requires ongoing commitment and resources from both our existing and new donors.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the Governments of the United Kingdom and United States of America, the Bezos Earth Fund, and Limagrain, for their generous contributions and pledges in 2023. Your support gets us closer to safeguarding crop diversity forever.

In 2023, we expanded our long-term support to the genebanks of the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, Colombia), the International Institute for Tropical Agricultural (IITA, Nigeria), and the World Vegetable Centre. These vital collections of crop diversity are a step closer to sustainable, forever funding.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I extend gratitude to all who champion our 'Food Forever' vision. We recognize the challenges ahead and are pleased to welcome the appointment of Dr. Geoffrey Hawtin and Dr. Josette Lewis to our Executive Board; they will take up their positions in 2024. Geoff, the Crop Trust's first ever Executive Director, brings a wealth of experience that will be invaluable as we navigate the complexities of ensuring global food security. Josette's diverse background and complementary perspective will also be invaluable.

Your ongoing support is fundamental to our continued success. Together, I am confident we can make 2024 another year of significant achievements.



**Catherine Bertini**  
Chair of the Executive Board  
Global Crop Diversity Trust

## **Board Statement on Risk Management For the year ended 31 December 2023**

The Executive Board of the Crop Trust has the overall responsibility for ensuring an appropriate risk management process is in place to identify and manage high and significant risks to the organization. They have adopted an approach for the Crop Trust whereby the review and monitoring of key risks is a standing item at each autumn Executive Board meeting using a framework of identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring risks over the following eight categories - strategy, performance, governance, environment and climate change, finance and investment, operations, programs, external affairs and communication. This assessment calculates the probability that the risk will occur and identifies the estimated magnitude of the potential loss, or “estimated risk value”. A specific role of the Finance & Audit Committee of the Executive Board is to review the institutional risk management matrix ahead of the Executive Board autumn meeting and report to the Board.

The Executive Board reviews the risks during the year to ensure that adequate attention is paid to high risks and that management has implemented adequate risk mitigation strategies. The Crop Trust’s institutional risk management matrix was updated in November 2023 for 2024 onwards, following an analysis of risks, the potential severity of their impact on the Crop Trust, and the likelihood of occurrence before and after considering mitigating factors currently in place.

The Executive Board notes that the effectiveness of risk management depends not only on identifying risks but also on implementing effective mitigation plans and the overall governance of the risk management system.

The Executive Board is satisfied with the attention paid by management to risk management and is comfortable that the Executive Board’s risk governance is sufficient to identify, manage and monitor key risks to the Crop Trust’s operations.



**Catherine Bertini**  
Chair of the Executive Board  
Global Crop Diversity Trust

## Management Statement of Responsibility for Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

The accompanying financial statements of the Global Crop Diversity Trust (“Crop Trust”) are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Management is responsible for the substance and objectivity of the information contained therein.

The financial statements of the Crop Trust are drawn up to present fairly the financial position of the Crop Trust as at 31 December 2023, and the results of its activities and cash flows for the year ended 31 December 2023. The Crop Trust maintains a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded and transactions are properly recorded and executed in accordance with management's authorisation. A system of reporting within the Crop Trust presents management with an accurate view of the operations enabling us to discern risks and, at the same time, provide a reliable basis for the financial statements and management reports.

The Executive Board exercised its responsibility for these financial statements through the Executive Board, the Investment Committee and the Finance & Audit Committee, who met regularly with management and representatives of the external auditors to review matters relating to financial reporting, internal controls, and auditing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Schmitz", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dr. Stefan Schmitz**  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dezreen Cameron-Stein", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dezreen Cameron-Stein**  
Head of Finance and Investment

Bonn, 15 April 2024

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To Global Crop Diversity Trust, Bonn/Germany

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Global Crop Diversity Trust, Bonn/Germany (the "Crop Trust"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023 and the statement of activity and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Crop Trust as at 31 December 2023 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs), as issued by the IASB.

### *Basis for opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the Crop Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Germany, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### *Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as issued by the IASB, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Crop Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Crop Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Crop Trust's financial reporting process.



### *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Crop Trust's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Crop Trusts ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Cologne, April 17, 2024

PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH  
Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft



Clivia Döll  
Wirtschaftsprüferin  
(German Public Auditor)



ppa. Kim Andrea Sommer  
Wirtschaftsprüferin  
(German Public Auditor)

#### Attachments

General Terms of Engagement for Wirtschaftsprüferinnen, Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften as of January 1, 2024



## GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

### Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2023

(all figures expressed in thousands of US Dollars)

	Notes	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	25,824	17,721
Receivable:	5		
Donors		335	166
Other		278	168
Prepaid expenses	6	1,031	1,494
Financial Asset	16	1,834	7,557
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>29,302</b>	<b>27,106</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant & equipment	7	31	17
Intangible assets	8	32	127
Financial Asset	16	355,082	326,893
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>355,145</b>	<b>327,037</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>384,447</b>	<b>354,143</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payable:	9		
Grants in advance		2,169	1,627
Other		434	680
Deferred Income	10	14,236	13,035
Accruals	11	627	690
Provisions	12	83	72
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>17,549</b>	<b>16,104</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	12	274	137
Borrowings	13	47,342	50,821
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>47,616</b>	<b>50,958</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>65,165</b>	<b>67,062</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
Unrestricted net assets	15	11,858	12,003
Permanently restricted net assets	16	307,424	275,078
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>		<b>319,282</b>	<b>287,081</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		<b>384,447</b>	<b>354,143</b>



**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST**  
**Statement of Activities & Other Comprehensive Income**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023  
(all figures expressed in thousands of US Dollars)

	Notes	2023				2022			
		Unrestricted	Temporary Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporary Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
		USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000
<b>Revenue and gains</b>	<b>19</b>								
Grant Revenue		1,307	10,735	-	12,042	953	7,295	-	8,248
Contribution to Endowment Fund		-	-	5,905	5,905	-	-	8,496	8,496
Contribution to Loan Interest		-	-	697	697	-	-	711	711
Other Revenue		52	-	-	52	146	-	-	146
Other Income and gains		331	-	-	331	60	-	-	60
<b>Total revenue and gains</b>		<b>1,690</b>	<b>10,735</b>	<b>6,602</b>	<b>19,027</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>7,295</b>	<b>9,207</b>	<b>17,661</b>
<b>Expenses and losses</b>	<b>20</b>								
Program direct expenses		145	10,735	5,737	16,617	-	7,295	5,322	12,617
External affairs expenses		-	-	1,373	1,373	-	-	1,057	1,057
Management and general expenses		1,834	-	628	2,462	1,215	-	961	2,176
<b>Total expenses and losses</b>		<b>1,979</b>	<b>10,735</b>	<b>7,738</b>	<b>20,452</b>	<b>1,215</b>	<b>7,295</b>	<b>7,340</b>	<b>15,850</b>
<b>Finance Income and expenditure</b>	<b>21</b>								
Net gain on endowment fund		-	-	36,365	36,365	-	-	(59,377)	(59,377)
FX revaluation Gain		144	-	1,683	1,827	56	-	3,807	3,863
FX revaluation Loss		-	-	(1,683)	(1,683)	-	-	(3,807)	(3,807)
Investment management fees		-	-	(2,186)	(2,186)	-	-	(2,087)	(2,087)
Interest on loan		-	-	(697)	(697)	-	-	(711)	(711)
<b>Net Finance Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>144</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>33,482</b>	<b>33,626</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(62,175)</b>	<b>(62,119)</b>
<b>Net Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(145)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,346</b>	<b>32,201</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(60,308)</b>	<b>(60,308)</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income/(Expenditure)</b>		<b>(145)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,346</b>	<b>32,201</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(60,308)</b>	<b>(60,308)</b>



**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023  
(all figures expressed in thousands of US Dollars)

	Notes	Unrestricted USD'000	Permanently Restricted USD'000	Total USD'000
<b>Balance as at 1 January 2022</b>		<b>8,348</b>	<b>339,041</b>	<b>347,389</b>
Transfer of unspent allocated endowment balance to reserve		3,655	(3,655)	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(60,308)	(60,308)
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2022</b>		<b>12,003</b>	<b>275,078</b>	<b>287,081</b>
Transfer of unspent allocated endowment balance to reserve	<b>15</b>	-	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		(145)	32,346	32,201
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2023</b>		<b>11,858</b>	<b>307,424</b>	<b>319,282</b>



**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST**  
**Statement of Cashflow**  
For the year ended 31 December 2023  
(all figures expressed in thousands of US Dollars)

	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
<b>Cashflows from (used in) operating activities</b>		
Total comprehensive income for the period	32,201	(60,308)
<b>Adjustments to reconcile net cash provided by operating activities:</b>		
Depreciation	13	8
Amortization of intangibles	95	101
Interest expense	697	711
Net (Gain)/Loss on endowment fund	(36,365)	59,377
Other Non-Cash Items	142	50
<b>Decrease/(increase) in assets:</b>		
Accounts Receivable	(279)	1,275
Prepaid expenses	463	(818)
<b>(Decrease)/Increase in liabilities:</b>		
Accounts Payable	296	(4,703)
Deferred Income	1,201	2,420
Accruals	(63)	200
Provisions	148	7
<b>Net cash (used in) /provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(1,451)</b>	<b>(1,680)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investment activities</b>		
Acquisition of equipment	(27)	(19)
Acquisition of intangible asset	-	(72)
Purchase of investments	(5,905)	(8,496)
Proceeds from maturity and sale of investments	21,469	14,502
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investment activities</b>	<b>15,537</b>	<b>5,915</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of loan	(5,144)	(2,374)
Interest expense	(697)	(711)
<b>Net cash (outflow) from financing activities</b>	<b>(5,841)</b>	<b>(3,085)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash</b>	<b>8,245</b>	<b>1,150</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	17,721	16,621
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to change in exchange rates	(142)	(50)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>25,824</b>	<b>17,721</b>



## **GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the year ended 31 December 2023**  
(Expressed in United States dollars unless otherwise stated)

### **1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Global Crop Diversity Trust (hereinafter referred to as the “Crop Trust” or the “Organization”) was established in October 2004 as an independent organization under international law. This status was conferred on it through the signing of an Establishment Agreement by seven states from five of the regions referred to in the basic texts of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. The Establishment Agreement has been signed by 28 countries.

As an independent international organization, the Crop Trust does not have any shareholders or parent. It is governed by an Executive Board. The headquarters of the Crop Trust is located at Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7, 53113 Bonn, Germany.

These financial statements have been reviewed by the Finance & Audit Committee of the Executive Board and were authorized for issue on 29 March 2024 by the Executive Board of the Crop Trust.

#### **Mission**

The mission of the Crop Trust is to ensure the conservation and availability of crop diversity for food security worldwide. Crop diversity is central to food security. It underpins today’s production and provides the raw material needed for ensuring continuing supplies tomorrow, in the face of a rapidly changing world.

Crop collections require constant maintenance and even brief disruptions or variations in funding can leave material at risk of permanent loss. The conservation of crop diversity in genebanks is a long-term task. Only stable, predictable support from an endowment fund can guarantee a global conservation system for a shared resource that is too important for anything less than perpetual care.

Donors to the Crop Trust include governments from developing and developed countries, foundations, the private sector and individuals. Together donors have contributed c. USD 605 million (which include endowment fund contributions, project and operational funding) plus a concessional loan of EUR 50 million to the Crop Trust’s work as at 31 December 2023.

The Crop Trust is building an endowment fund, the recurring income from which will be sufficient to guarantee the conservation and the ready availability of the biological foundation of all major agricultural crops, forever. As at 31 December 2023 contributions of c. USD 259 million have been received for the endowment from a wide array of donors. The Crop Trust has also received a EUR 50 million concessional loan, EUR 42.9 million net of capital repayment as at 31 December 2023. Total non-current financial assets amounted to approximately USD 355 million as at 31 December 2023. 95.4% of the endowment contributions received have been provided by Governments.

The investment objective for the Crop Trust’s Endowment Fund (“the Fund”) is that it is highly diversified and structured for the long-term so that it can withstand short-term market dislocations, whether positive or negative. The key objective of the Fund is to earn returns sufficient to outpace spending, maintaining the Fund’s real purchasing power over time and, if possible, grow it. With this goal in mind and given the 4% cap on spending adopted by the Crop Trust, the Fund aims to attain an annualized real total return of at least 4%, net of fees, over a rolling ten-year periods.

To date, approximately USD 82 million has been allocated by the Crop Trust to support long-term grants with CGIAR, a global partnership that unites organizations engaged in research for a food secure future, which holds important international crop collections. The Crop Trust also contributes to the operational

costs associated with running the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, in conjunction with our partners, the Government of Norway and the Nordic Gene Resource Centre, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The support provided by the endowment fund comes solely from investment income earned i.e., the actual contributions invested in the endowment fund are not drawn on. The fund allows the Crop Trust to fulfil its mandate: to create a permanent legacy of support for the key international collections of critical importance to our food supply.

Principal activities of the Crop Trust include:

- (1) Rescuing the seeds in endangered national crop collections;
- (2) Funding the ongoing maintenance of vital global crop collections;
- (3) Documenting the characteristics of conserved seeds so that collections are useful for plant breeders;
- (4) Sponsoring and improving global information systems for managing and sharing crop genetic data, massively enhancing access, and therefore options, for plant breeders everywhere.
- (5) Funding of the ultimate safety back-up facility - the Svalbard Global Seed Vault deep in the Arctic permafrost - [where currently 1,280,677](#) duplicates of the world's seed collections are being stored, originating from every country on earth.

## **2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the Crop Trust are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis except for investments that have been measured at fair value. The financial statements are presented in thousands of US dollars (USD '000) and all values are rounded to the nearest thousands, except where otherwise indicated.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Headquarters Agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Crop Trust signed 29 June 2012, the Crop Trust is tax exempt.

The significant accounting policies followed are described below.

### **2.1 Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise of contributions and grants received in advance together with related interest earned. As contributions for the endowment fund are permanently restricted, cash and cash equivalents at the year-end do not include contributions to the endowment fund. Rather, these are reported as financial assets.

Cash is comprised of cash on hand, petty cash funds, and currencies awaiting deposit as well as local or foreign currency deposits in banks which are immediately available for use in current operations.

Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are both readily convertible to known amounts of cash, and when nearing their maturity date there is insignificant risk of changes in value arising from changes in interest rates. In general terms, only investments with original maturities of three months or less will qualify under this definition.

### **2.2 Receivable**

Receivable are claims held against debtors for the future receipt of money from donors, advances to employees, and claim against third parties for services rendered. Receivables due from donors can arise from unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted grants that have been agreed between the Crop Trust and the donor. Receivables relating to unrestricted, temporarily restricted and permanently restricted grants are recorded once the donor has signed an irrevocable agreement to



provide the grant to the Crop Trust. Receivables are carried at the lower of amortized cost or the estimated future cash flows.

The Crop Trust assesses whether there is objective evidence that the receivables are impaired at the end of each reporting period.

The allowance method is used to provide for doubtful accounts and is calculated as an amount equal to the total receivables shown, or reasonably estimated to be doubtful of collection. The amount in the allowance is based on past experience and a continuous review of receivable reports and other relevant factors. When an account receivable is deemed doubtful of collection, an allowance is provided during the year the receivable is deemed doubtful. Any receivable, or portion of receivable judged to be uncollectible is written off. Write-offs of receivables are done via allowance for doubtful accounts after all efforts to collect have been exhausted.

The Crop Trust did not have any doubtful accounts during the year.

### **2.3 Prepaid Expenses**

Prepaid expenses are payments made in advance for equipment, goods and services related to project costs that have not yet been expensed. The prepayment is released once the project costs have been expensed. The project costs for equipment are expensed once the equipment is in use. If project costs are not incurred in the future, the prepaid expenses are subject to repayment. Other prepaid expenses include licenses, subscriptions and insurance.

### **2.4 Property, Plant and Equipment**

Office equipment and furniture are recorded at cost and depreciated over the estimated useful life of the respective asset (between three to five years). The straight-line method is applied where the asset has an original cost greater than USD 2K. Items with an original cost lower than this amount are charged directly to operating expenses in the Statement of Activities in the period in which they are incurred.

The depreciation charge for each period is recognized in the Statement of Activities as management and general expenses.

### **2.5 Intangible Assets**

An intangible asset is an identifiable non-monetary asset without physical substance. Intangible assets are recognized if, and only if, it is probable that the expected future economic benefit attributable to the asset will flow to the Crop Trust and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably.

An intangible asset is measured initially at cost. The cost of the separately acquired intangible asset comprises a) its purchase price and non-refundable purchase taxes and b) any directly attributable cost of preparing the asset for its intended use. The Crop Trust has no internally generated intangible assets, only acquired intangible assets.

Intangible assets are amortized over the estimated useful life of the respective asset, between three to five years, on a straight-line basis. Amortization begins when the asset is available for use. Amortization ceases at the earlier of the date that the asset is classified as held for sale or the date the asset is derecognized. The amortization charge for each period is recognized in the Statement of Activities as management and general expenses. The amortization period and the amortization method for intangible assets with a finite useful life are reviewed at least annually at each financial year end.

### **2.6 Financial Assets and Liabilities**

Financial Assets relate primarily to a permanently restricted endowment fund established by the Crop Trust to support the effective conservation and ready availability of the biological basis of agriculture. The endowment fund is not a separate investment vehicle, it is a name used for diverse investments which are administered by investment managers on behalf of the Crop Trust during the reporting period.

The endowment fund investments are recorded at fair value. The fair value option was exercised in line with the applied fair value management approach. The fair value of financial assets is determined with reference to quoted market prices, observable market data and unobservable valuation inputs. Regular purchases and sales of financial assets are recognized and derecognized using trade date accounting. Changes in the market value of the financial assets are reported as finance income or expense in the Statement of Activities.

Financial liabilities are borrowings, payables and accruals. Borrowings are classified as current liabilities with maturities of more than 3 months but not exceeding one year. Liabilities with the purpose of keeping them for more than one year from their acquisition date are classified as long-term borrowings.

## **2.7 Payables**

Payables are the aggregate amount of short-term liabilities reflecting amounts owed in respect of goods, services and general expenditure relating to the operational activities of the Crop Trust received during the year, grants in advance for the year and grants payable.

Payables are split into grants in advance and other payables. Grants in advance represent amounts that have been expensed by partners and are included as program expenditures in the Statement of Activities; however, the funds in this case have been received from the donors but have not yet been paid to the partners. Other payables include liabilities due to suppliers for services to the Crop Trust.

Payables are stated at amortized costs.

## **2.8 Deferred Income**

According to IAS 20.12, deferred income represents amounts received from the donor for which the related expense has not yet been incurred. Once the funds are expensed, the deferred income is reduced with a corresponding recognition of revenue in the Statement of Activities.

Deferred income includes other income receivable that has not yet been expensed and grants towards loan interest received that have not yet been expensed.

## **2.9 Employee Benefits**

The Crop Trust provides the following employee benefits:

- (1) Short Term obligation - regular monthly benefits (wages, salaries, private medical), compensated absences (annual, medical, maternity/paternity leave) and other benefits (education grant, relocation grant - subject to terms and conditions);
- (2) Post-employment benefits relate to repatriation grants and pension contributions;
- (3) Other Long Term employee benefits include accumulated leave payable on separation; and
- (4) Termination benefits include indemnities for voluntary redundancy payable once a plan has been formally approved.

Employee benefits are generally expensed and recognized in the Statement of Activities in the period in which they occur.

Leave obligations cover the Crop Trust's liability for annual leave. In accordance with the Crop Trust's Executive Board-approved Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual (PPPM), annual leave earned in any calendar year may be accumulated; provided that the total amount of accrued annual leave to be carried forward at the end of the leave year shall not exceed 30 working days. Days over 30 are lost as of 31 December of each year unless the Executive Director approves retention because taking leave was not possible due to exigencies of service. Therefore, all current annual leave obligations are expected to be settled within the next 12 months in the normal course of business.

The Crop Trust has established a defined contribution retirement fund. For all regular employees, and in accordance with the PPPM, the Crop Trust shall make a contribution to the fund of up to 20% of the



employee's base salary. The employee may make additional voluntary contributions to the retirement plan. The Crop Trust has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The employer contributions are recognized as an employee benefit and are recorded as an expense in the Statement of Activities when they fall due.

## **2.10 Provisions and Contingent Liabilities**

Provisions are recognized when: 1) the Crop Trust has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, 2) it is probable (i.e. more likely than not) that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and 3) a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. When the Crop Trust expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognized as a separate asset, but only when the reimbursement is certain. The expense relating to a provision is presented in the Statement of Activities net of any reimbursement.

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Crop Trust; or a present obligation that arises from past events but is not recognized because: i) it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; or ii) the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Included under provisions is an obligation to provide post-employment benefits to employees for repatriation expenses upon separation from the Crop Trust. In accordance with the Personnel Policies & Procedures Manual, for professional regular employees, the Crop Trust will pay the cost of transportation of personal effects and household goods from the employee's residence in Bonn, Germany or another authorized location to the employee's authorized home location or another authorized location.

## **2.11 Net Assets**

Unrestricted net assets consist of contributions received from unconditional transfers of cash or other assets to the Crop Trust as well as other income.

Permanently restricted net assets consist of contributions received from permanently restricted transfers of cash or other assets to the Crop Trust as well as income from the investment of such funds via the endowment fund. In accordance with the Investment Policy approved by the Executive Board, an amount may be withdrawn to cover program and operational expenses of the Crop Trust. The amount available to be spent in a given calendar year is subject to a limit calculated in reference to the Fund's average market value over the preceding twelve quarters ending 31 December of the previous financial year. The Executive Board approved withdrawal policy is 4% of assets, subject to the discretion of the Executive Board.

For the calendar year 2023, the Executive Board approved a withdrawal of up to 2.86% from the USD endowment fund in order to fund the long-term grant commitments to the international genebanks, the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, system wide support to genebanks and operational activities of the Crop Trust. The actual amount withdrawn is 2.69%. Funds withdrawn are reported as permanently restricted expenses in the Statement of Activities and Other Comprehensive Income and split between program expenditure and management and general expenditure as appropriate.

## **2.12 Revenue Recognition**

Contributions to the Crop Trust fall into three categories:

- (1) Unrestricted revenue and gains - revenue not subject to donor-imposed restrictions.
- (2) Temporarily restricted revenue and gains - revenue subject to donor-imposed time or use restrictions.
- (3) Permanently restricted revenue and gains - revenue subject to donor-imposed restrictions or specific conditions that the funds be invested in perpetuity.

**Unrestricted revenue and gains:**

Unconditional transfers of cash or other assets to the Crop Trust.

“Unrestricted grant revenue” consists of contributions received from unconditional transfer of cash or other assets to the Crop Trust as well as other income. Those grants are recorded in full upon receipt of funds as contribution income in the period received in accordance with IAS 20 para. 20.

“Other revenue” consists of website donations whereas “other income and gains” include charges for services provided, etc. Both revenue streams are only recognized if they can be determined reliably and it is sufficiently probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Crop Trust.

**Temporarily restricted revenue and gains:**

Transfer of resources to the Crop Trust for the implementation of specified projects.

Upon receipt of cash, the funds are deferred until the specified project expense has been incurred (deferred income). When the Crop Trust recognizes the expense for the related project costs, the grant is recognized as revenue (IAS 20 para. 12). Unused funds at the end of a project are repaid to the donor.

Temporarily restricted grants are recorded as revenue upon satisfaction of restrictions. Restrictions are deemed satisfied upon expenditure of project costs for which contributions have been pledged based on the terms of the underlying contracts and additional agreements.

**Permanently restricted revenue and gains:**

At inception, the Crop Trust created a non-reimbursable endowment fund. All contributions are recognized as income in the period received (IAS 20 para. 20). The investment returns on the endowment fund are recognized in accordance with IFRS 9 in the Statement of Activities.

**2.13 Expenses and Losses**

The activities of the Crop Trust have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Activities. The costs have been allocated between program direct expenses (i.e. goods or services distributed to and support provided to stakeholders that fulfil the purpose or mission for which the organization exists), and management and general expenses (i.e. all activities other than program expenditure which are indirectly related to the purposes for which the organization exists and necessary for its conduct). External affairs expenses (i.e. activities specifically related to partnership and communication) in the amount of USD 1,373K (2022: USD 1,057K) have been extracted from management and general expenses and are classified as external affairs expenses to reflect the revised structure of the Crop Trust. Expenses are allocated based on whether the expense is unrestricted, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted. Unrestricted expenses represent administrative and indirect costs not charged to projects or permanently restricted assets. Temporarily restricted expenses are those expenses charged as direct costs to projects. Permanently restricted costs are primarily amounts provided to partners to cover the routine operations of the genebanks, the Crop Trust's operational cost and investment management fees.

Personnel expenses consist of salaries and other personnel-related costs for Crop Trust staff and have been allocated on a functional basis.

Expenses are recorded on an accrual basis in the Statement of Activities in the period in which the cost is incurred, except for expenses based on management estimates which are recorded at year-end (see note 2.15 for further information).

**2.14 Foreign Currency Transactions**

The Crop Trust conducts its operations in several currencies and maintains its accounting records in United States Dollars (USD). Thus, the financial statements are prepared in USD, which is also the functional currency.

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the UN monthly exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions or valuation where items are re-measured. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognized as finance income or expenditure in the Statement of Activities. The average rate of exchange for 2023 was 0.925 (USD/EUR) and the year-end exchange rate as at 31 December 2023 was 0.901 (USD/EUR).

## 2.15 Management Estimates

Preparing the Crop Trust's financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates, and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities at the end of the reporting period. However, uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that require adjustment to the carrying amount of the asset or liability in future periods.

The level of program expenditure recorded in the Statement of Activities includes information provided by partners up to the time of completion of the Crop Trust's financial statements. In instances where there is incomplete information from partners, management shall use judgment in estimating total program expenditure that results in information that is reliable (in that the financial statements represent faithfully the financial position, financial performance, and cash flows of the Crop Trust); reflect the economic substance of transactions, other events and conditions, and not merely the legal form; are neutral (i.e. free from bias) and are prudent. Management's estimate of total program expenditure will be based on a signed contract and agreed budget with the partner.

Management has used judgement and decided that this policy is preferable, because it results in the best estimate of expenditures incurred by partners based on the signed contracts and agreed budget, making the entity's financial statements more reliable as it reflects a more prudent level of expenditure.

## 2.16 Non-Financial Grants

In accordance with the Headquarters Agreement signed between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Crop Trust in 2012, regarding the relocation of the Crop Trust to Bonn, the Crop Trust was granted rent-free premises at the Platz der Vereinten Nationen in Bonn. This qualifies as a non-monetary contribution in accordance with IAS 20.3. In accordance with the Standard Interpretations Committee (SIC) 10.3 the Crop Trust has adopted not to account for this grant at fair value but with the pro-memoria figure.

### Impact of the new financial standards:

The International Accounting Standards Board and the IFRS Interpretations Committee have implemented and approved amendments to a number of existing IFRSs, which became effective for the Crop Trust in 2023.

The Crop Trust does not expect any significant impact on its financial statements resulting from the following Amendments to the Standards and the interpretation of those:

Standard	Description	Effective for reporting year
IFRS 4	Insurance Contracts: Superseded by IFRS 17	2023
IAS 1	Narrow scope amendments to IAS 1, Practice statement 2 and IAS 8	2023
IAS 8	Amendment to ISA 8: Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors	2023
IFRS 17	Insurance Contracts	2023
IAS 12	Amendment to IAS 12 – deferred tax related to assets and liabilities arising from a single transaction	2023

### 3. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

IAS10 *Events After the Reporting Period* contains requirements for events after the end of the reporting period, which should be adjusted in the financial statements. Adjusting events are those providing evidence of conditions existing at the end of the reporting period, whereas non-adjusting events are indicative of conditions arising after the reporting period (the latter being disclosed where material).

The Organization has evaluated events and transactions up to 14 March 2024 for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. No other subsequent events have been recognized or disclosed.

### 4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December 2023 consist of:

	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
Cash and Bank accounts in USD	21,517	11,896
Cash and Bank accounts in EUR	4,307	5,825
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,824</b>	<b>17,721</b>

### 5. RECEIVABLE

#### *Receivable - Donor*

Receivables from donors consist of claims for expenses paid on behalf of restricted projects in excess of the amount received and amounts receivable from donors towards loan interest payable. In 2023 amounts receivable from donors for claim for expenses paid on behalf of restricted projects amounted to USD 335K (2022: USD 166K).

#### *Receivable - Other*

Other receivables of USD 278K (2022: USD 168K) consist mainly of VAT receivable in the amount of USD 151K, outstanding balances from partners for the refund of advances paid following the cancellation of an agreement USD 19K, the completion of activities USD 54K, the refund of travel expenses paid by the Crop Trust in the amount of USD 15K and a formation capital contribution and loan of USD 39K made by the Crop Trust to its German charitable organization, Crop Trust Foundation gGmbH.

The following table provides the detail of receivables as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
<b>Accounts Receivable Donor</b>		
Templeton World Charitable Foundation	-	166
European Commission & FAO	335	-
<b>Accounts Receivable Donor</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Other</b>		
VAT receivable	151	121
Other	127	47
<b>Receivable - Other</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>334</b>

The Crop Trust does not have any significant credit risk exposure as amounts receivable consist primarily of tax receivables, receivables from partner genebanks and a formation capital loan to the Crop Trust Foundation gGmbH. As at 01 March 2024 a total of USD 73K from outstanding balance was received.

## 6. PREPAID EXPENSES

Total prepaid expenses as at 31 December 2023 amount to USD 1,031K (2022: USD 1,494K). Included in this balance is the amount of USD 825K for grants paid in advance, USD 21K for the prepayment of educational allowances for 2023, USD 72K for system licenses and subscriptions paid and USD 113K for other prepaid operational expenses.

	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
<b>Prepaid Expenses</b>		
Grants	825	1,254
Supplies & Services	206	240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,031</b>	<b>1,494</b>

## 7. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

In 2023 the Crop Trust purchased capital equipment amounting to USD 27K. Depreciation is included under “management and general expenses” in the Statement of Activities and Other Comprehensive Income.

Property, Plant and Equipment	Total USD'000
<b>At 1 January 2022</b>	
Cost	44
Accumulated depreciation	(38)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	
Opening net book amount	6
Additions	19
Depreciation Charge	(8)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	
Opening net book amount	17
Additions	27
Depreciation Charge	(13)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	
Cost	90
Accumulated depreciation	(59)
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	<b>31</b>

## 8. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets as at December 2023 consist of information system development expenditures. Amortization is included under management and general expenditures in the Statement of Activities and Other Comprehensive Income.

Intangible Asset	Total USD'000
<b>At 1 January 2022</b>	
Cost	256
Accumulated amortization	(100)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>At 31 December 2022</b>	
Opening net book amount	156
Additions	72
Depreciation Charge	(101)
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	
Opening net book amount	127
Additions	-
Depreciation Charge	(95)
<b>Closing net book value</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>	
Cost	328
Accumulated amortization	(296)
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	<b>32</b>

## 9. PAYABLE

This balance consists mainly of amounts relating to grants payable to genebanks in support of project activities and genebank operations under the Crop Trust's genebank long term grants program. The amounts payable at the year-end for grants represents grants and contributions received in advance not yet disbursed. Grants in advance with respect to genebanks amount to USD 2,169K (2022: USD 1,627K) and these will be disbursed in early 2024 once final financial and technical reports for 2023 have been approved.

The following table provides the details of payables as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
<b>Grants in Advance</b>		
Genebank grants	2,169	1,627
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>1,627</b>
<b>Other</b>		
Supplies & services	345	587
Interest on loan payable	89	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>680</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,603</b>	<b>2,307</b>

## 10. DEFERRED INCOME

Deferred Income consists primarily of amounts received at the year-end in respect of temporary restricted grants not yet disbursed and grants relating to loan interest not yet released. The total for temporarily restricted grants amounted to USD 13,995K (2022: USD 12,051K) and reflects amounts relating to the Crop Trust's major projects. The total relating to the loan interest grant amounted to USD 192K (2022: USD 868K), please see note 14 for further information.

The following table provides details of Deferred Income as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Temporarily restricted contributions	13,995	12,051
Grant for loan interest	192	868
Other	49	116
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,236</b>	<b>13,035</b>

## 11. ACCRUALS

The following table provides details of accruals as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Employee benefit payable	290	282
Accruals	337	408
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>690</b>

Employee benefit payable consists primarily of accrued leave obligations. Accruals include an amount for services received during 2023 of USD 337K (2022: USD 408K).

## 12. PROVISIONS

A provision for repatriation has been calculated based on the estimated costs of repatriating professional level staff to their home countries as specified in their appointment letters. The liability has been split between short term and long term provisions in the Statement of Financial Position with short term representing all obligations resulting from contracts that are ending within the next twelve months and long term for those over twelve months. In addition to the provision for repatriation, a provision has been made for other employment benefits relating to insurance which is expected to be settled within the next twelve months and classified as short term provision.

In 2023 the repatriation provision was increased by USD 111K to USD 320K (2022: USD 209K) represented by a reduction of USD 26K in short term provision and an increase of USD 137K in long term provisions. This movement was a result of staff movements and of the reclassification of the provision from long term to short term depending on the remaining duration of staff contracts. The provision for other employment benefits of USD 37K is a short term provisions in 2023. These movements are recognized as an expense in the Statement of Activities and as a reduction in liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

The following table provides details of provisions as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	Short Term Provision	Long Term provision	Total
	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000
<b>At 1 January 2022</b>			
Opening balance	97	105	202
Addition	-	32	32
Release	(25)	-	(25)
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>At 31 December 2023</b>			
Addition	67	108	175
Utilized	(13)	-	(13)
Transfer	(29)	29	-
Release	(14)	-	(14)
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>357</b>



### 13. BORROWINGS

On 12 October 2017 the Crop Trust signed a concessional loan agreement with KfW, a development bank existing under the laws of the Federal Republic of Germany, for EUR 50M (USD 57M) to contribute to the capitalization of the endowment fund of the Crop Trust and ultimately to contribute to long term food security by conserving and using plant genetic resources. The loan term is 15 years with a grace period of five years before loan repayments are due. The interest rate on the loan is 1.39%, however grants from BMZ, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (EUR 4,150K) and the Government of the Netherlands (EUR 225K) towards the interest repayments reduces the rate to an effective interest rate of 0.5% over the course of the loan.

The loan is recognized as a liability in the Statement of Financial Position. The balance of the grants from BMZ and the Government of the Netherlands towards the loan interest are recognized as Deferred Income.

Interest for the period is recognized as a financing expense in the Statement of Activities and the corresponding amount is released from Deferred Income and recognized as revenue in the Statement of Activities.

As part of the year-end currency revaluation which translates the balance of the EUR 50 million loan into USD for reporting purposes, foreign exchange unrealized book loss amounted to USD 1,683K which is recognized in the Statement of Activities and reflected in the year end value of the loan of USD 47,342K.

### 14. RELATED PARTIES

In accordance with IAS24 an entity is related to a reporting entity if, among other circumstances, it is a parent, subsidiary, fellow subsidiary, associate, or joint venture of the reporting entity, or it is controlled, jointly controlled, or significantly influenced or managed by a person who is a related party. The following are related parties to the Crop Trust in accordance with IFRS (IAS24).

- (1) Friends of Global Crop Diversity Limited, a US 501(c)3 public charity incorporated in the State of Delaware in 2005, is organized on a non-profit, non-stock basis and does not have the authority to issue any capital stock. The corporation is represented by three Directors and was established for the following purposes:
  - To provide financial assistance to ensure the long-term conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for global food security
  - To promote the objectives and purposes of the Crop Trust; and
  - To solicit and receive funds and other property for the purpose of providing assistance to achieve these objectives.

During the period, Friends of Global Crop Diversity Limited signed an agreement with the Crop Trust to support the International Cocoa Genebank of Trinidad and Tobago in 2024, and made a disbursement in the amount of USD 1.9K (2022: USD 0K) to the Crop Trust to cover administrative expense paid by the Crop Trust on its behalf.

- (2) Crop Trust Foundation gGmbH is a charitable organization established in 2017 under German law with a registered office in Bonn, Germany. It is represented by the Crop Trust as the only shareholder, and by two Directors. The gGmbH pursues charitable purposes and has tax-privileged status. The purpose of the gGmbH is to support activities related to environmental protection, science and development cooperation. This purpose is achieved by fundraising activities to the exclusive benefit of the Crop Trust. The Crop Trust made a formation capital contribution of USD 28K to the Crop Trust Foundation gGmbH in January 2017 and a further operational loan of USD 11K in May 2019. The capital contribution and the loan, totalling USD 39K are recorded as an account receivable by the Crop Trust as at 31 December 2023.
- (3) Based on materiality considerations, the Crop Trust is not preparing consolidated financial statements.



(4) Key Management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Crop Trust. The Crop Trust's "key management personnel" are members of the senior management team.

The total remuneration for key management personnel for the year 2023 amounted to USD 1,321K (2022: USD 1,221K).

The following table provides details of key management personnel remuneration as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,321	1,221
Long-term benefits	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,321</b>	<b>1,221</b>

Transactions between the Crop Trust, related parties and key management personnel were made on an arm's-length transaction basis.

## 15. NET ASSET BALANCES

Resources are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into net asset classes according to the restriction imposed.

The following table provides the details of Unrestricted Net Asset movement as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Opening balance	12,003	8,348
<b>Revenue and gains</b>		
Grant Revenue	1,307	953
Other Revenue	52	146
Other Income and gains	331	60
<b>Total Revenue and gains</b>	<b>1,690</b>	<b>1,159</b>
<b>Expenses and losses</b>		
Program direct expense	145	-
External affairs expenses	-	-
Management and general expenses	1,834	1,215
<b>Total expenses and losses</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>1,215</b>
<b>Finance Income and Expenditure</b>		
FX revaluation gain	144	56
<b>Net Finance (loss)/income</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>Net (loss)/Income</b>	<b>(145)</b>	<b>-</b>
Transfer of unspent allocated endowment balance to reserves	-	3,655
<b>Balance as at 31 December</b>	<b>11,858</b>	<b>12,003</b>

The Executive Board approved, on 26 October 2022, the spending of USD 3 million from reserves for the implementation of the fundraising initiative over the 3 year period 2023 - 2025. In 2023, a total of USD 145K was released from reserves for this purpose.

## 16. FINANCIAL ASSETS

The Crop Trust manages an endowment fund, which is used to fund the effective conservation and ready availability of the biological basis of agriculture. An endowment fund provides a permanent source of financial support matching the long-term nature of conservation with long-term secure and sustainable funding.

Funds are invested in accordance with the Investment Policy approved by the Executive Board. The Investment Committee implements the investment strategy adopted by the Executive Board. Following a tender process for investment management services in 2021, the Crop Trust appointed Mercer Global Investments Europe Limited, based in London to manage the endowment funds. The agreement with Mercer was signed on 26 January 2022.

The Crop Trust is an official signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI), an international framework for incorporating sustainability into investment decision-making. The Executive Board of the Crop Trust has approved the incorporation of UNPRI factors into its Investment Policy to ensure that it addresses risks and opportunities of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors in the management of the Crop Trust's assets and has approved a Sustainable Investment Framework, included as an Annex to the Investment Policy, to align its investment strategy with its core mission. As part of its Sustainable Investment Framework, the Crop Trust has become a supporter of the Taskforce for Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). The Crop Trust has also set a net zero target for the decarbonization of the endowment fund of 2040, the decarbonisation pathway is aligned with the European Policy Decarbonisation Curve.

The Crop Trust actively considers responsible investment capabilities when selecting and monitoring its investment advisors and investment managers and encourages them to proactively consider and integrate ESG issues. The Crop Trust monitors the decisions of its investment advisor regarding ESG issues that may have a material impact on the value of the Crop Trust's assets, and monitors the active ownership activities of its investment managers. The Crop Trust encourages its external investment advisors and investment managers to be signatories and demonstrate commitment to the PRI.

The value of the financial assets at year-end was USD 356,916K (2022: USD 334,450K) which represents amounts held in both the USD and EUR endowment fund, including amounts to be withdrawn to cover permanently restricted expenditures. The EUR endowment fund holds the value of the loan received in 2017 and has a balance of USD 49,203K which is made up of the value of the loan as at 31 December 2023 (USD 47,342K) together with grants received to cover interest payments on this loan (USD 4,833K) and net movement, including capital repayment, (USD 7,518K). The loan is recognized as a non-current liability, contributions towards the loan interest are recorded as deferred income and all other contributions, fees and gains/losses are reported as an increase or decrease in the Statement of Activities.

The amount to be withdrawn to fund remaining genebank commitments and operations for 2023 of USD 1,834K (2022: USD 7,557K) has been recognized as a current asset and the remaining balance of USD 355,082K (2022: USD 326,893K) has been recognized as a non-current asset in the Statement of Financial Position.

The following table provides details of total Financial Assets as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

Financial Assets	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Current Financial Asset – Amounts to be withdrawn from the endowment fund	1,834	7,557
Non - Current Financial Asset – Endowment balance less amounts to be withdrawn	355,082	326,893
<b>Balance as at 31/12</b>	<b>356,916</b>	<b>334,450</b>

The following schedule represents the composition of the market value of the funds held by the investment managers (comprising the endowment fund balance and amounts to be withdrawn) including

amounts held in trust in the form of cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

USD Endowment Fund	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Equities	135,317	137,572
Bonds	83,062	88,679
Hedge Funds	15,874	18,752
Private Markets	73,456	39,776
Cash	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>307,709</b>	<b>284,779</b>
EUR Endowment Fund	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Equities	7,450	7,274
Bonds	41,757	42,397
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,207</b>	<b>49,671</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>356,916</b>	<b>334,450</b>

The permanently restricted net assets as at 31 December 2023 of USD 307,424K (2022: USD 275,078K) represent the amounts held in both the USD and EUR endowment funds, excluding the loan and the balance of the contribution towards the interest on the loan, which includes the principal together with interest earned, changes in market value less management fees and income released - and cash and cash equivalents. The movements are reported in the Statement of Activities.

The annual return of the endowment in 2023 was 10.5% (2022: -16.3%) against a policy benchmark return (US inflation plus 4%) of 7.6% over the same period. Over the one-year period in 2023, the performance was a result of positive returns across major asset classes in USD terms.

The following table provides an analysis of changes to the Financial Assets during the year.

USD Endowment Fund	Note	2023	2022
		USD'000	USD'000
<b>Balance as at 1 January</b>		<b>284,779</b>	<b>338,335</b>
Contribution	1	5,905	8,496
Endowment Fund Gain/(Loss)	2	32,477	(50,987)
Management fee		(1,991)	(1,879)
Withdrawal	3	(7,738)	(10,995)
<b>Total movement</b>		<b>28,653</b>	<b>(55,365)</b>
Change in Current Financial Assets		(5,723)	1,809
<b>Balance as at 31 December</b>		<b>307,709</b>	<b>284,779</b>
EUR Endowment Fund	Note	2023	2022
		USD'000	USD'000
<b>Balance as at 1 January</b>		<b>49,671</b>	<b>65,163</b>
Contribution to Loan Interest	1	-	-
Endowment Fund Gain/(Loss)	2	3,888	(8,390)
Capital Repayment		(5,144)	(2,374)
Loan Interest paid		(697)	(711)
Loan Interest payable		-	-
Management fee		(194)	(209)
Withdrawal	3	-	-
FX revaluation Gain/(Loss)		1,683	(3,807)
<b>Total movement</b>		<b>(464)</b>	<b>(15,491)</b>
Change in Current Financial Assets		-	(1)
<b>Balance as at 31 December</b>		<b>49,207</b>	<b>49,671</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>356,916</b>	<b>334,450</b>

**Notes:**

- (1) Contribution represents donations received from donors during the year for the USD endowment fund and donations received towards the loan interest payable.
- (2) Endowment fund gain or loss represents the change in the market value of the Fund and is reported as finance income. This represents an unrealized gain as at 31 December 2023.
- (3) In accordance with the Investment Policy approved by the Executive Board of the Crop Trust, funds may be withdrawn to cover program and operational expenses of the Crop Trust. The amount available to be spent in a given calendar year is subject to a limit calculated with reference to the Fund's average market value over the preceding twelve quarters ending 31 December of the previous financial year. The Executive Board's approved withdrawal policy is currently a limit of 4% of the above calculated asset value. The amount withdrawn is subject to the discretion of the Executive Board. For 2023, the Executive Board approved a withdrawal of 2.86% (2022: 3.3%) from the endowment to fund genebank commitments, the long-term grant to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the Crop Trust's system wide support to genebanks, and operational activities of the Crop Trust. The actual amount withdrawn was 2.69%.

**17. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT**

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (i.e. an exit price).

The assets in the endowment fund of the Crop Trust are measured and recognized at fair value. In determining fair value, the Fund uses valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The valuation techniques used by the Fund to determine fair value are consistent with the market or income approaches. The fair value is determined based on assumptions that market participants use in pricing an asset or liability in the market. When considering market participant assumptions in fair value measurements, the following fair value hierarchy distinguishes between observable and unobservable inputs, which are categorized in one of the following levels prescribed under the accounting standard on fair value hierarchy disclosure:

**Level 1:** Valuations based on unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Fund has the ability to access. The fair value of financial assets traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, and trading and available-for-sale securities) is based on quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period. The quoted market price used for financial assets held is the current bid price. These instruments are included in Level 1.

**Level 2:** Valuations based on inputs, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, that are observable either directly or indirectly. The fair value of financial assets that are not traded in an active market (for example, over-the-counter derivatives) is determined using valuation techniques which maximize the use of observable market data and rely as little as possible on entity-specific estimates. If all significant inputs required to fair value an instrument are observable, the instrument is included in Level 2.

**Level 3:** Valuations based on inputs that are unobservable and significant to the overall fair value measurement. If one or more of the significant inputs is not based on observable market data, the instrument is included in Level 3.

**Valuation techniques used to determine fair values**

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorized in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement. For this purpose, the significance of an input is assessed against the fair value measurement in its entirety. If a fair value measurement uses observable inputs that require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs, that measurement is a Level 3 measurement. Assessing the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgement, considering factors specific to the asset or liability.

The determination of what constitutes "observable" requires significant judgment. The Crop Trust considers observable data to be that market data that is readily available, regularly distributed or

updated, reliable and verifiable, not proprietary, and provided by independent sources that are actively involved in the relevant market.

For each class of assets and liabilities not measured at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position but for which fair value is disclosed, IFRS 13 requires the organization to disclose the level within the fair value hierarchy which the fair value measurement would be categorized and a description of the valuation technique and inputs used in the technique.

Cash and cash equivalents include deposits held with banks and other short-term investments in an active market and are categorized as Level 1.

Pooled investment vehicles that do not have a quoted price on a recognized stock exchange are classified as Level 2. The underlying assets of the pooled fund may be judged to belong to Level 1, for example, the equity funds however, due to the understanding that the level should be applied to the unit holding in the pooled fund, this would classify the equity funds as Level 2. Where funds comprise of collective investment schemes and not segregated investments and the underlying assets can be classed as Level 1 or 2 assets they will be classified as Level 2.

If no trade prices are available, prices are determined with the aid of valuation models which are agreed between the custodian and the investment company and are based as far as possible on the market parameters.

The Fund's assets and liabilities recorded at fair value have been categorized based upon a fair value hierarchy as described above.

The following tables present the composition of the funds held by the investment managers (comprising of the endowment fund balance and amounts to be withdrawn as per Note 16 including amounts held in trust in the form of cash and cash equivalents measured at fair value as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022 (in thousands):

<b>USD Endowment Fund Portfolio At 31 Dec 2023</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVPL*</b>				
Equities	-	135,317	-	135,317
Bonds / Credit	-	83,062	-	83,062
Hedge Funds	-	1,223	14,651	15,874
Private Markets	-	-	73,456	73,456
Cash & Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>219,602</b>	<b>88,107</b>	<b>307,709</b>
<b>EUR Endowment Fund Portfolio As at 31 Dec 2023</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVPL*</b>				
Equities	-	7,450	-	7,450
Bonds	-	41,756	-	41,757
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,206</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,207</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 2023</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>268,808</b>	<b>88,107</b>	<b>356,916</b>

<b>USD Endowment Fund Portfolio</b>				
<b>At 31 Dec 2022</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVPL*</b>				
Equities	-	137,572	-	137,572
Bonds / Credit	-	88,679	-	88,679
Hedge Funds	-	9,814	8,938	18,752
Private Markets	-	-	39,776	39,776
Cash & Other	-	-	-	-
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>236,065</b>	<b>48,714</b>	<b>284,779</b>
<b>EUR Endowment Fund Portfolio</b>				
<b>As at 31 Dec 2022</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVPL*</b>				
Equities	-	7,274	-	7,274
Bonds	-	42,397	-	42,397
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,671</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>49,671</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL 2022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>285,736</b>	<b>48,714</b>	<b>334,450</b>

\*FVPL – changes in fair value are recognized in Statement of Activities and other Comprehensive Income as they arise

### Level 3 Fair value measurements

The use of valuation techniques for Level 3 investments involve consideration of whether discounts or premiums, if any, are to be applied to the net asset value of the underlying collective investment scheme. No significant premiums or discounts have been applied to the net asset value at 31 December 2023, or 31 December 2022.

The investments are classified as Level 3 due to the inherent nature of these investments (i.e. side-pockets, funds with restricted liquidity and the fact that some of the inputs into the valuation were not observable on the market).

The following table presents the changes in Level 3 items for the periods ending 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

	<b>Hedge fund</b>	<b>Private Market</b>
	<b>USD'000</b>	<b>USD'000</b>
Opening Balance 1 January 2022	10,480	31,133
Acquisitions	-	8,343
Redemption	(2,249)	-
Gains recognized in permanent net asset	708	300
<b>Closing balance as at 31 December 2022</b>	<b>8,939</b>	<b>39,776</b>
Acquisitions	4,930	29,804
Redemption	-	-
(Losses)/Gains recognized in permanent net asset	782	3,876
<b>Closing balance as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>14,651</b>	<b>73,456</b>

\* includes unrealized gains or (losses) recognized in profit or loss attributable to balances held at the end of the reporting periods

There was Hedge Fund acquisition in the amount of USD 4,930K transferred from other levels in the fair value hierarchy in 2023. There are acquisitions included in the amount of USD 29,804K in Private Markets.

The private market investments included in the majority of collective investment schemes classified in Level 3 have been valued on the basis of the net asset value (NAV) of the underlying fund without adjustment, which management believe is an appropriate measurement of fair value as at the financial period end date.



In relation to Funds invested in Level 3, assuming everything remained equal, but the NAV prices were changed by 3% then the fair value of Level 3 investments would change as outlined in the following table.

Fund	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Hedge fund	17	12
Private Market	2,204	1,193

### Loan and other Fair value measurements

The fair value of USD 45,600K of the concessional loan is calculated with the aid of the discounted cash flow method based on observable interest rates and exchange rates and accordingly classified as a Level 2 instrument.

For cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables the carrying amounts approximate fair value, because of the short maturity of these instruments, and therefore fair value information is not included in the notes.

## 18. RISK MANAGEMENT

As an international organization, the Crop Trust is exposed to financial risks in the normal course of business. A major objective of the organization's policy is to minimize the impact of market, liquidity and default risks on the value of the organization in order to avoid adverse fluctuations in cash flows and earnings without forgoing the opportunity to benefit from positive market trends. For this purpose, a systematic financial risk management system has been established. Interest rate and exchange rate risks are managed in accordance with established corporate policies.

### Market risk

Market risk can be subdivided into exchange rate, interest rate and commodity/other price risk. The organization's risk management is carried out by the finance department under policies approved by the Finance and Audit Committee and the Executive Board. The finance department works in close collaboration with the investment fund manager to identify, evaluate and manage financial risks. The management of these risks is explained below.

### Exchange Rate Risk

Exchange rate risk arises from future commercial transactions and recognized asset and liabilities denominated in a currency that is not the functional currency of the organization. To the extent that assets are denominated in a different currency (or in currencies in different proportions) compared to expected spending, there is a risk that adverse currency moves could impact the ability of the Crop Trust to meet its obligations. The Crop Trust values its assets and considers its risk in USD terms as it has a global remit and spending can be made in a variety of currencies. The Crop Trust holds endowment funds in USD and EUR with the objective of minimizing its currency risk exposure. Spending from the Funds is predominantly in the currency of the Fund. The Crop Trust aims to maintain well diversified portfolios by currency and does not consider it cost effective to hedge currency exposure (for example, into USD).

The exchange rate risks associated with the concessional loan include the risk that investments do not keep pace with inflation or the risk of a mismatch between the currency of debt service obligations and of the currency of invested loan principal and associated investment returns. The EUR denominated concessional loan is expected to be repaid with receipts from the EUR denominated endowment fund. The loan proceeds and interest subsidies have been invested within a separate EUR investment fund which mitigates the currency risk by matching the currency of the loan and its debt service obligations to the currency of the invested assets and to the corresponding investment income. In addition, net income generated by the investment in the separate EUR investment fund could be used in full, with no further currency risks attached, to support project and operational expenses of the Crop Trust Secretariat in EUR.

The following table summarizes the impact of the increase or decrease in USD exchange rate by 10 percent on total net asset as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Exchange Rate Risk	Impact on total net asset	
	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
USD exchange rate - increase 10%*	(17,461)	(15,498)
USD exchange rate - decrease 10%*	17,461	15,498

\*Holding all other variables constant

### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate management protects net income from the negative effects of fluctuations in market interest rates. Interest rate risk is managed by using derivative and non-derivative financial assets. The aim is to achieve an appropriate ratio of fixed and variable rates taking costs and risk into account.

The Crop Trust's main interest rate risks arise from long-term investments in the endowment funds, one of which holds the EUR concessional loan. The Crop Trust manages the risk associated with the loan by investing the loan proceeds in order to earn an expected average investment return of approximately 3% p.a. The net annual margin of ca. 2% between the expected investment return and the loan interest allows the Crop Trust to build a financial buffer to protect itself against a possible shortfall of investment income against the interest to be paid to the lender. The loan period of 15 years provides a sufficiently long investment horizon to accommodate possible short-term capital market volatility without jeopardizing the long-term investment performance of the invested loan principal. In addition, the loan has a fixed interest rate for the full term of the loan, thereby providing a predictable cost structure.

The interest rate risk of the USD endowment fund is managed by maintaining a well-diversified portfolio. The fund is exposed to interest rate risk due to the pooled funds and also to overseas interest rate risk as part of the investment strategy is to invest globally to add value. In addition to maintaining well diversified portfolios in the two dominant currencies of the Crop Trust's operation, interest rate risk is also managed by entering into operational contracts in the currencies of the underlying expenditure involved, that is, USD or EUR to reduce exposure to interest rate fluctuations.

The following table summarizes the impact of an increase or decrease in USD interest rates by 1 percent on total net assets as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Interest Rate Risk	Impact on total net asset	
	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
USD interest rate - increase 1%*	3,638	3,978
USD interest rate - decrease 1%*	(3,638)	(3,978)

\*Holding all other variables constant

The following table summarizes the impact of an increase/decrease in bond prices by 5 percent on total net assets. The price risk of the bonds relates primarily to the interest risk whereas credit risk has no material impact.

Price risk	Impact on total net asset	
	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Bond price - increase 5%	6,011	6,310
Bond price - decrease 5%	(6,011)	(6,310)

\*Holding all other variables constant

### Commodity / Equity Price Risk

Commodity price risk is the volatility in fair value due to the price fluctuations. Commodity risk affects various sectors of the market as a commodity's price is affected by politics, seasonal changes, technology and current market conditions. Equity price risk is the risk that the fair value of equities will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.





The Crop Trust manages price risk exposure by constructing a diverse portfolio of investments across various markets and geographies. Diversification of the portfolio is done in accordance with the limits set by the organization.

The following table summarizes the impact of an increase/decrease in equity prices by 5 percent on total net assets.

Equity Price risk	Impact on total net asset	
	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
Equity price - increase 5%	11,835	10,413
Equity price - decrease 5%	(11,835)	(10,413)

\*Holding all other variables constant

### Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, investments, receivables, derivatives and deposits with banks and financial institutions. The carrying amount of these instruments represents the maximum credit risk of the Crop Trust. At the reporting date, there were no significant arrangements which reduced the maximum credit risk.

Credit risk management divides default risks into the categories, namely, debtors and creditor risk, country risk and the risk of default by financial counterparties, that is, the risk that a counterparty will not fulfill its contractual obligations.

The Crop Trust has in place operating procedures with a stringent due diligence process for the selection of a counterparty before entering into contracts. For banks and financial institutions, only independently rated parties with a minimum rating of "A" are accepted. The debtors and creditor risk control assess their credit quality taking into account their financial position, past experiences and other factors. Default risks are analysed and monitored continuously with the aid of internal policy and procedures and strong reporting and interaction is implemented to limit risk exposure.

Country risk is also taken into account for donor agreements so that the overall risk assessment considers political risk factors. On the basis of this analysis, specific terms and conditions are defined in agreements with contracting parties. The Crop Trust sets high standards for the credit worthiness of counterparties.

The Crop Trust does not anticipate any debtor or creditor default as at 31 December 2023. Total "Receivable – other" amounts to USD 278K as at 31 December 2023 (see note 5 for details). "Receivable – other" does not contain any impairment and are not past due. Based on credit history, it is expected that these amounts will be received in full.

The risks associated with the loan are default and erosion risks. The risk of (a) not being able to repay the loan principal and/or interest due to a lack of funds at the loan repayment due date or (b) using endowment funds as ultimate resource to meet loan repayment obligations. The Crop Trust will manage this risk by restricting its withdrawals from investment income on invested loan principal to the actual returns generated minus any loan expenses. This will ensure that only actual net investment income earned will be withdrawn, therefore protecting against withdrawals from invested loan principal. In order to balance the level of funds available for investment with the level of funds withdrawn for funding Crop Trust's activity, the interest subsidies along with the loan principal have been invested, together with the interest subsidies being used up gradually by covering a set proportion of the periodic interest payments.

The Crop Trust manages this risk by investing the loan proceeds in order to earn an expected average investment return of around 3% p.a. The net annual margin of ca. 2% between the expected investment return and the loan interest allows the Crop Trust to build a financial buffer to protect itself against a possible shortfall of investment income and the interest to be paid to lenders. The loan time horizon of 15 years provides a sufficiently long investment horizon to accommodate possible short-term capital market volatility without jeopardizing the long-term investment performance of the invested loan principal.

## Liquidity Risk

Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and marketable securities and the availability of funding through an adequate amount of committed credit facilities to meet obligations when due and to close out market positions. Liquidity risk management occurs through business planning to ensure that the funds required to finance the current operating business and current and future investments are available at the right time and in the right currency at optimum cost. Liquidity requirements for business operations, investments and other financial activities are derived from financing status and liquidity planning, which form part of liquidity risk management.

Management sets liquidity targets and monitors performance against these targets on the basis of cash and cash equivalents and expected cash flows. The liquidity target set for the endowment fund is 80% redeemable within 3 months under normal market conditions and 5% redeemable within 7 days under normal market conditions. The fund was within target as at 31 December 2023.

The Crop Trust had cash and cash equivalents and current financial assets as at 31 December 2023 of USD 25,824K (2022: USD 17,721K). Approximately USD 2,169K of this amount will be used to settle grant payables in 2023. In addition, as at 31 December 2023, the Crop Trust met all payment terms agreed for financial liabilities.

The table below analyses the group's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on their contractual maturities for all non-derivative financial liabilities and derivative financial assets for which the contractual maturities are essential for an understanding of the timing of the cash flows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

Contractual maturities of financial liabilities as at 31 December 2023	Up to 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000
<b>Non-derivatives</b>				
Payables	2,603	-	-	2,603
Accruals	627	-	-	627
Borrowings	5,260	21,041	21,041	47,342
<b>Total non-derivatives</b>	<b>8,490</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>21,041</b>	<b>50,572</b>
<b>Derivatives</b>				
Trading derivatives	15,874	-	-	15,874
<b>Total Derivatives</b>	<b>15,874</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,874</b>

Contractual maturities of financial liabilities as at 31 December 2022	Up to 1 year	1-5 years	More than 5 years	Total
	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000	USD'000
<b>Non-derivatives</b>				
Payables	2,307	-	-	2,307
Accruals	690	-	-	690
Borrowings	5,081	20,328	25,411	50,820
<b>Total non-derivatives</b>	<b>8,078</b>	<b>20,328</b>	<b>24,411</b>	<b>53,817</b>
<b>Derivatives</b>				
Trading derivatives	18,752	-	-	18,752
<b>Total Derivatives</b>	<b>18,752</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,752</b>

Repayment of contractual obligations, in particular on the concessional loan, is ensured by the assets of the endowment fund.

### **Additional Information on Risk Management of the Financial Assets**

The Investment Policy issued by the Executive Board of the Crop Trust, affirms the investment principles that govern decisions about the investment of the Crop Trust's Endowment Fund ("the Fund"). This policy provides guidelines for the prudent management of the endowment fund of the Crop Trust and prioritizes the preservation of capital ahead of maximization of investment returns in order to minimize risk exposure.

The investment objective of the USD Fund is to earn returns sufficient to outpace spending, maintaining the Fund's real purchasing power over time and, if possible, growing it. With this goal in mind, the Fund aims to attain an annualized real total return<sup>1</sup> of at least 4%, net of fees, over a rolling ten-year periods.

The investment objective of the EUR Fund is to earn returns which exceed loan interest, maintaining the Fund's real value over time to cover the loan repayment. The Fund aims to earn an expected average annual investment return of approximately 3%.

A further objective is to align investments to the Crop Trust's core mission to ensure the conservation and availability of crop diversity for food security worldwide. The Crop Trust's Investment Policy, approved by the Executive Board on 26 October 2022, includes a Sustainable Investment Framework to align its investment strategy with its core mission.

The Crop Trust believes that mitigating risk and capturing investment opportunities driven by the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues may have a material impact on investment returns across all asset classes. Therefore, the Crop Trust considers ESG integration into its investment process to be an important component of its investment strategy and could support the broader mission and objectives of the Crop Trust. The Crop Trust also believes that factors beyond financial considerations may impact the assets within the endowment portfolio and that investments should be consistent with the Crop Trust's values and protect the Crop Trust's reputation. Climate change specifically poses a financial risk and therefore it is appropriate that the Crop Trust takes this into consideration in setting asset allocation and selecting investment managers.

The Endowment Fund aims to achieve its investment objectives within risk levels deemed appropriate by the Investment Committee and consistent with the Executive Board approved Investment Policy. The aim is to maintain the annualized 10-year volatility of the portfolio within a target range of 20% less than that of global equities.

The investment performance of the Fund is monitored against the investment return objectives, risk tolerances and liquidity requirements set out in the Investment Policy. Performance reports generated by the Investment Manager are reviewed quarterly by the Investment Committee. The evaluation of overall investment performance results is assessed over significantly longer periods of time meant to capture a full economic cycle, such as rolling ten-year periods.

In addition to the above, risk reporting assesses the additional financial risks incurred by the Crop Trust in pursuing its investment objectives, as well as analysis of whether the expected returns justify the risks taken. In addition to those covered above, these financial risks include, but are not limited to:

- **Concentration Risk**

The Executive Board recognizes the risks that may arise from the lack of diversification of investments. The Investment Manager therefore aims to ensure the asset allocation results in an adequately diversified portfolio. Some investment exposure is obtained via pooled vehicles. The concentration risk target of no more than 60% of the portfolio held in any single asset class is monitored by management.

- **Operational Risk**

This is the risk of inadequate or failed internal procedures and systems, inadequate capacity or external events (including legal risks) in the facilitation and administration of a new type of financial resource. To mitigate against this risk, the Crop Trust conducts periodic assessments of its internal capacity as well

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<sup>1</sup> Real total return is the sum of realized and unrealized capital appreciation (or loss) and income in the form of dividends and interest, adjusted for inflation as measured by the U.S. Consumer Price Index.

as the systems and procedures in place. To this effect, the relevant risk indicators relating to these issues are integrated into the Crop Trust’s overall institutional risk management procedures and policies.

- **Donor Liability risks**

This is the risk of Crop Trust's donors being liable for acts or obligations of the Crop Trust or to have any actual or contingent liability arising out of their donations. This is not an actual risk in the Crop Trust's donors' case, as the acceptance of the loan would not impose any actual or contingent liabilities for current or future donors providing grant contributions to the Crop Trust.

- **Macroeconomic risks**

Due to the structure of the Crop Trust, the endowment fund is subject to fluctuations in the global financial markets. The endowment fund is highly diversified and structured for the long-term so that it can withstand short-term market dislocations in order to achieve its objectives and these dislocations did not trigger structural changes to the strategic asset allocation of the portfolio. The Crop Trust is fortunate to have strong liquidity and a very long-term perspective.

The above risks relate to the specific financial risks that may be created by financial assets and liabilities. There are also other general risks that the Crop Trust faces in its normal operations, for example, the risk of short-term capital market volatility that is inherent in any endowment structure, such as that of the Crop Trust. These will be mitigated through the institutional Risk Management process of the Crop Trust and the associated metrics, as adapted to cover the aspects related to the loan.

## 19. REVENUE AND GAINS

Total revenue and gains recognized in 2023 amount to USD 19,027K (2022: USD 17,661K) which includes USD 12,042K (2022: USD 8,248K) grant revenue released from restrictions.

The following table provides further details of revenue.

	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
Grant Revenue	12,042	8,248
Contribution to Endowment Fund	5,905	8,496
Contribution to loan interest	697	711
Other revenue	52	146
Other income and gains	331	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,027</b>	<b>17,661</b>

## 20. EXPENSES AND LOSSES

Expenses and losses are recorded on an accrual basis in the Statement of Activities in the period in which the cost is incurred.

Program expenses, including personnel costs, amounted to USD 16,617K in 2023 (2022: USD 12,617K). The Crop Trust continued to work with international genebanks, CGIAR and other partners including the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation, the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany, the European Commission, the Templeton Foundation and the Darwin Initiative.

The Crop Trust continued its work with genebanks including the ongoing work with international genebanks providing long term funding for essential operations under either Long-Term Grants or Long-Term Partnership Agreements and providing system-wide support in the form of information system support, and knowledge and quality management support. In 2023 the Crop Trust signed agreements with two additional genebanks for Long-Term Partnership Agreements, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), taking the number of Long-Term Partnership agreements to three.

In line with the Crop Trust’s 2030 Strategy, projects continue to play an important role in supporting the mission of the Crop Trust. In 2023, project activities increased with the expansion of the Biodiversity for Opportunities, Livelihoods and Development project (BOLD) to incorporate underutilized crops. Other

notable project agreements include one with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) entitled 'Safeguarding Ukraine's Agricultural Heritage' which involved a workshop to strategize on securing Ukraine's genebank collection amidst the ongoing war, and an agreement with GIZ to provide support for the genebank collections of ICRISAT and CATIE.

External Affairs expenses cover all costs associated with Partnership and Communication. This includes salaries for partnership and communication staff, institutional communications, and partnerships. Expenditure increased from USD 1,057K in 2022 to USD 1,372K in 2023. The increase results from, staff movements, inflationary adjustment, and foreign exchange movements upon conversion of salaries paid in EUR and converted into USD for financial reporting purposes and the reclassification of staff between programs and external affairs. There was an increase in partnership and communication activities due to an increase in activities promoting the work of the Crop Trust, including the Crop Diversity Summit held in Berlin in November 2023, which was funded in part through the Strategic Development of the Crop Trust project, together with PR and social media activities and events.

Management and general expenses include administrative salaries, travel, governance, professional services and IT/Facilities. Expenditure increased from USD 2,176K in 2022 to USD 2,462K in 2023. The increase arises from staff movements, inflationary adjustment, and foreign exchange movements upon conversion of salaries paid in EUR and converted into USD for financial reporting purposes. In addition, there was an increase in travel and governance activities due mainly to the return to two in-person Executive Board meetings in 2023 following the removal of the Covid19 related travel restrictions and professional services and facilities expenses as a result of increased information system costs due to increased staff and system development and improvements.

As at 31 December 2023 the Crop Trust employed 46 full time equivalent staff members (2022: 43). Total personnel costs across programs and operations for 2023 amounted to USD 5,200K (2022: USD 4,719K).

The following table provides further details of expenses as at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022. Personnel costs have been split across program direct expenses, external affairs expenses and management and general expenses.

	2023 USD'000	2022 USD'000
<b>Program direct expenses</b>		
Genebank grants	10,752	7,924
Personnel expenses	2,786	2,664
Professional services	1,092	1,231
Supplies & Services	684	248
Travel	1,303	550
<b>Total Program direct expenses</b>	<b>16,617</b>	<b>12,617</b>
<b>External affairs expenses</b>		
Personnel expenses	909	661
Partnership	152	126
Communication	312	270
<b>Total External affairs expenses</b>	<b>1,373</b>	<b>1,057</b>
<b>Management and general expenses</b>		
Personnel expenses	1,505	1,394
Travel	39	35
Governance	242	148
Professional services	173	108
Facilities	503	491
<b>Total Management and general expenses</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>2,176</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>20,452</b>	<b>15,850</b>

## 21. FINANCE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Finance income and expenditure consist of the net gain/loss on the endowment funds, investment management fees, loan interest and net foreign exchange (FX) revaluation gains and losses totalling USD 33,626K in 2023 (2022 net loss: USD 62,119K). FX revaluation gain in 2023 includes a book gain of USD 144K from the revaluation of the operational bank accounts.

	2023	2022
	USD'000	USD'000
<b>Finance Income</b>		
Net gain on endowment funds	36,365	-
FX revaluation gains	1,827	3,863
<b>Total Finance income</b>	<b>38,192</b>	<b>3,863</b>
<b>Finance Expenses</b>		
Net loss on endowment funds	-	59,377
FX revaluation loss	1,683	3,807
Investment management fees	2,186	2,087
Interest on loan	697	711
<b>Total Finance expenses</b>	<b>4,566</b>	<b>65,982</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>33,626</b>	<b>(62,119)</b>

## 22. FINANCIAL STANDARDS ISSUED NOT YET EFFECTIVE

The standards and interpretations that are issued but not yet effective up to the date of issuance of the Crop Trust's financial statements are disclosed below. The Crop Trust intends to adopt these standards if applicable when they become effective.

The Crop Trust does not expect any significant impact on its financial statements resulting from the following Standards, Amendments to the Standards and the interpretation of those:

Standard	Description	Effective for reporting year
IAS 1	Amendments to IAS 1: Presentation of financial statements – Classification of liabilities as current or non-current	2024
IFRS 16	Amendment to IFRS 16: Lease liability in a sales and leaseback	2024
IAS 21	Amendment to IAS 21: Lack of exchangeability	2024
IAS7 & IFRS 7	Amendment to ISA 7 & IFRS 7: Supplier finance arrangement	2024
IFRS S1	General requirements for disclosure of sustainability-related financial Information	2024

On behalf of the Executive Board:



Dr. Stefan Schmitz  
Executive Director



Dezreen Cameron-Stein  
Head of Finance and Investment

Bonn, 15 April 2024



# General Engagement Terms

for

## Wirtschaftsprüferinnen, Wirtschaftsprüfer and Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften

[German Public Auditors and Public Audit Firms]  
as of January 1, 2024

### 1. Scope of application

(1) These engagement terms apply to contracts between German Public Auditors (Wirtschaftsprüferinnen/Wirtschaftsprüfer) or German Public Audit Firms (Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaften) – hereinafter collectively referred to as "German Public Auditors" – and their engaging parties for assurance services, tax advisory services, advice on business matters and other engagements except as otherwise agreed in writing (Textform) or prescribed by a mandatory rule.

(2) Third parties may derive claims from contracts between German Public Auditors and engaging parties only when this is agreed or results from mandatory rules prescribed by law. In relation to such claims, these engagement terms also apply to these third parties. A German Public Auditor is also entitled to invoke objections (Einwendungen) and defences (Einreden) arising from the contractual relationship with the engaging party to third parties.

### 2. Scope and execution of the engagement

(1) Object of the engagement is the agreed service – not a particular economic result. The engagement will be performed in accordance with the German Principles of Proper Professional Conduct (Grundsätze ordnungsmäßiger Berufsausübung). The German Public Auditor does not assume any management functions in connection with his services. The German Public Auditor is not responsible for the use or implementation of the results of his services. The German Public Auditor is entitled to make use of competent persons to conduct the engagement.

(2) Except for assurance engagements (betriebswirtschaftliche Prüfungen), the consideration of foreign law requires an express agreement in writing (Textform).

(3) If circumstances or the legal situation change subsequent to the release of the final professional statement, the German Public Auditor is not obligated to refer the engaging party to changes or any consequences resulting therefrom.

### 3. The obligations of the engaging party to cooperate

(1) The engaging party shall ensure that all documents and further information necessary for the performance of the engagement are provided to the German Public Auditor on a timely basis, and that he is informed of all events and circumstances that may be of significance to the performance of the engagement. This also applies to those documents and further information, events and circumstances that first become known during the German Public Auditor's work. The engaging party will also designate suitable persons to provide information.

(2) Upon the request of the German Public Auditor, the engaging party shall confirm the completeness of the documents and further information submitted as well as the explanations and statements provided in a statement as drafted by the German Public Auditor in a legally accepted written form (gesetzliche Schriftform) or any other form determined by the German Public Auditor.

### 4. Ensuring independence

(1) The engaging party shall refrain from anything that endangers the independence of the German Public Auditor's staff. This applies throughout the term of the engagement, and in particular to offers of employment or to assume an executive or non-executive role, and to offers to accept engagements on their own behalf.

(2) Were the performance of the engagement to impair the independence of the German Public Auditor, of related firms, firms within his network, or such firms associated with him, to which the independence requirements apply in the same way as to the German Public Auditor in other engagement relationships, the German Public Auditor is entitled to terminate the engagement for good cause.

### 5. Reporting and oral information

To the extent that the German Public Auditor is required to present results in a legally accepted written form (gesetzliche Schriftform) or in writing (Textform) as part of the work in executing the engagement, only that

presentation is authoritative. Drafts of such presentations are non-binding. Except as otherwise provided for by law or contractually agreed, oral statements and explanations by the German Public Auditor are binding only when they are confirmed in writing (Textform). Statements and information of the German Public Auditor outside of the engagement are always non-binding.

### 6. Distribution of a German Public Auditor's professional statement

(1) The distribution to a third party of professional statements of the German Public Auditor (results of work or extracts of the results of work whether in draft or in a final version) or information about the German Public Auditor acting for the engaging party requires the German Public Auditor's consent be issued in writing (Textform), unless the engaging party is obligated to distribute or inform due to law or a regulatory requirement.

(2) The use by the engaging party for promotional purposes of the German Public Auditor's professional statements and of information about the German Public Auditor acting for the engaging party is prohibited.

### 7. Deficiency rectification

(1) In case there are any deficiencies, the engaging party is entitled to specific subsequent performance by the German Public Auditor. The engaging party may reduce the fees or cancel the contract for failure of such subsequent performance, for subsequent non-performance or unjustified refusal to perform subsequently, or for unconscionability or impossibility of subsequent performance. If the engagement was not commissioned by a consumer, the engaging party may only cancel the contract due to a deficiency if the service rendered is not relevant to him due to failure of subsequent performance, to subsequent non-performance, to unconscionability or impossibility of subsequent performance. No. 9 applies to the extent that further claims for damages exist.

(2) The engaging party must assert a claim for subsequent performance (Nacherfüllung) in writing (Textform) without delay. Claims for subsequent performance pursuant to paragraph 1 not arising from an intentional act expire after one year subsequent to the commencement of the time limit under the statute of limitations.

(3) Apparent deficiencies, such as clerical errors, arithmetical errors and deficiencies associated with technicalities contained in a German Public Auditor's professional statement (long-form reports, expert opinions etc.) may be corrected – also versus third parties – by the German Public Auditor at any time. Misstatements which may call into question the results contained in a German Public Auditor's professional statement entitle the German Public Auditor to withdraw such statement – also versus third parties. In such cases the German Public Auditor should first hear the engaging party, if practicable.

### 8. Confidentiality towards third parties, and data protection

(1) Pursuant to the law (§ [Article] 323 Abs 1 [paragraph 1] HGB [German Commercial Code: Handelsgesetzbuch], § 43 WPO [German Law regulating the Profession of Wirtschaftsprüfer: Wirtschaftsprüferordnung], § 203 StGB [German Criminal Code: Strafgesetzbuch]) the German Public Auditor is obligated to maintain confidentiality regarding facts and circumstances confided to him or of which he becomes aware in the course of his professional work, unless the engaging party releases him from this confidentiality obligation.

(2) When processing personal data, the German Public Auditor will observe national and European legal provisions on data protection.

### 9. Liability

(1) For legally required services by German Public Auditors, in particular audits, the respective legal limitations of liability, in particular the limitation of liability pursuant to § 323 Abs. 2 HGB, apply.

(2) Insofar neither a statutory limitation of liability is applicable, nor an individual contractual limitation of liability exists, claims for damages due to negligence arising out of the contractual relationship between the

engaging party and the German Public Auditor, except for damages resulting from injury to life, body or health as well as for damages that constitute a duty of replacement by a producer pursuant to § 1 ProdHaftG [German Product Liability Act: Produkthaftungsgesetz], are limited to € 4 million pursuant to § 54 a Abs. 1 Number 2 WPO. This applies equally to claims against the German Public Auditor made by third parties arising from, or in connection with, the contractual relationship.

(3) When multiple claimants assert a claim for damages arising from an existing contractual relationship with the German Public Auditor due to the German Public Auditor's negligent breach of duty, the maximum amount stipulated in paragraph 2 applies to the respective claims of all claimants collectively.

(4) The maximum amount under paragraph 2 relates to an individual case of damages. An individual case of damages also exists in relation to a uniform damage arising from a number of breaches of duty. The individual case of damages encompasses all consequences from a breach of duty regardless of whether the damages occurred in one year or in a number of successive years. In this case, multiple acts or omissions based on the same source of error or on a source of error of an equivalent nature are deemed to be a single breach of duty if the matters in question are legally or economically connected to one another. In this event the claim against the German Public Auditor is limited to € 5 million.

(5) A claim for damages expires if a suit is not filed within six months subsequent to the written statement (Textform) of refusal of acceptance of the indemnity and the engaging party has been informed of this consequence. This does not apply to claims for damages resulting from scienter, a culpable injury to life, body or health as well as for damages that constitute a liability for replacement by a producer pursuant to § 1 ProdHaftG. The right to invoke a plea of the statute of limitations remains unaffected.

(6) § 323 HGB remains unaffected by the rules in paragraphs 2 to 5.

#### 10. Supplementary provisions for audit engagements

(1) If the engaging party subsequently amends the financial statements or management report audited by a German Public Auditor and accompanied by an auditor's report (Bestätigungsvermerk), he may no longer use this auditor's report.

If the German Public Auditor has not issued an auditor's report, a reference to the audit conducted by the German Public Auditor in the management report or any other public reference is permitted only with the German Public Auditor's consent, issued in a legally accepted written form (gesetzliche Schriftform), and with a wording authorized by him.

(2) If the German Public Auditor revokes the auditor's report, it may no longer be used. If the engaging party has already made use of the auditor's report, then upon the request of the German Public Auditor he must give notification of the revocation.

(3) The engaging party has a right to five official copies of the report. Additional official copies will be charged separately.

#### 11. Supplementary provisions for assistance in tax matters

(1) When advising on an individual tax issue as well as when providing ongoing tax advice, the German Public Auditor is entitled to use as a correct and complete basis the facts provided by the engaging party – especially numerical disclosures; this also applies to bookkeeping engagements. Nevertheless, he is obligated to indicate to the engaging party any material errors he has identified.

(2) The tax advisory engagement does not encompass procedures required to observe deadlines, unless the German Public Auditor has explicitly accepted a corresponding engagement. In this case the engaging party must provide the German Public Auditor with all documents required to observe deadlines – in particular tax assessments – on such a timely basis that the German Public Auditor has an appropriate lead time.

(3) Except as agreed otherwise in writing (Textform), ongoing tax advice encompasses the following work during the contract period:

- a) preparation and electronic transmission of annual tax returns, including financial statements for tax purposes in electronic format, for income tax, corporate tax and business tax, namely on the basis of the annual financial statements, and on other schedules and evidence documents required for the taxation, to be provided by the engaging party
- b) examination of tax assessments in relation to the taxes referred to in (a)
- c) negotiations with tax authorities in connection with the returns and assessments mentioned in (a) and (b)
- d) support in tax audits and evaluation of the results of tax audits with respect to the taxes referred to in (a)
- e) participation in petition or protest and appeal procedures with respect to the taxes mentioned in (a).

In the aforementioned tasks the German Public Auditor takes into account material published legal decisions and administrative interpretations.

(4) If the German Public auditor receives a fixed fee for ongoing tax advice, the work mentioned under paragraph 3 (d) and (e) is to be remunerated separately, except as agreed otherwise in writing (Textform).

(5) Insofar the German Public Auditor is also a German Tax Advisor and the German Tax Advice Remuneration Regulation (Steuerberatungsvergütungsverordnung) is to be applied to calculate the remuneration, a greater or lesser remuneration than the legal default remuneration can be agreed in writing (Textform).

(6) Work relating to special individual issues for income tax, corporate tax, business tax and valuation assessments for property units as well as all issues in relation to sales tax, payroll tax, other taxes and dues requires a separate engagement. This also applies to:

- a) work on non-recurring tax matters, e.g. in the field of estate tax and real estate sales tax;
- b) support and representation in proceedings before tax and administrative courts and in criminal tax matters;
- c) advisory work and work related to expert opinions in connection with changes in legal form and other re-organizations, capital increases and reductions, insolvency related business reorganizations, admission and retirement of owners, sale of a business, liquidations and the like, and
- d) support in complying with disclosure and documentation obligations.

(7) To the extent that the preparation of the annual sales tax return is undertaken as additional work, this includes neither the review of any special accounting prerequisites nor the issue as to whether all potential sales tax allowances have been identified. No guarantee is given for the complete compilation of documents to claim the input tax credit.

#### 12. Electronic communication

Communication between the German Public Auditor and the engaging party may be via e-mail. In the event that the engaging party does not wish to communicate via e-mail or sets special security requirements, such as the encryption of e-mails, the engaging party will inform the German Public Auditor in writing (Textform) accordingly.

#### 13. Remuneration

(1) In addition to his claims for fees, the German Public Auditor is entitled to claim reimbursement of his expenses; sales tax will be billed additionally. He may claim appropriate advances on remuneration and reimbursement of expenses and may make the delivery of his services dependent upon the complete satisfaction of his claims. Multiple engaging parties are jointly and severally liable.

(2) If the engaging party is not a consumer, then a set-off against the German Public Auditor's claims for remuneration and reimbursement of expenses is admissible only for undisputed claims or claims determined to be legally binding.

#### 14. Dispute Settlement

The German Public Auditor is not prepared to participate in dispute settlement procedures before a consumer arbitration board (Verbraucherschlichtungsstelle) within the meaning of § 2 of the German Act on Consumer Dispute Settlements (Verbraucherstreitbeilegungsgesetz).

#### 15. Applicable law

The contract, the performance of the services and all claims resulting therefrom are exclusively governed by German law.