

FOR INFORMATION

Fundraising Report 2008

Purpose

To inform members of the status of the fundraising efforts of the Trust.

Background

The Trust is raising funds for operational and project expenditure, as well as soliciting contributions for the endowment fund. Funds are sought from a range of sources worldwide.

Recent Activity

Since EB3 the following contributions have been received. For a full set of pledges to date, refer to [Annex A](#).

Canada	CAD 1,000,000	USD 973,520
GRDC		USD 1,701,672
Norway		USD 3,112,858
Switzerland (SDC)	CHF 300,000	USD 284,525
Switzerland (SDC) (IFA contract)		USD 70,000
Other		USD 63,026
		USD 6,205,601

Government fundraising - Europe

Discussions are being held with several European governments. An update will be given at the meeting.

Government fundraising - USA

On June 18, 2008 the United States Congress enacted legislation to authorize \$60 million in funding for the Global Crop Diversity Trust over the Fiscal Years 2008 through 2012. The provision was enacted as section 3202 part of the 2008 Farm Bill and can be seen in [Annex B](#).

At the same time, the Trust made progress toward fulfilling this funding authorization by beginning to garner US funding through the appropriations process.

As the global food crisis came to the forefront of US consciousness this summer, the Trust successfully advocated for funding from a supplemental appropriations bill. Competition for these funds was clearly strong, and the Trust raised \$1 million from the USAID. Receipt of these funds by the Trust is expected shortly.

The House and Senate Appropriations Committees both provided for \$7 million in funding for the Trust from the USAID for Fiscal Year 2009 (October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009). Unfortunately, the failure of the US Congress to enact the FY 2009 appropriations bills leaves the actual appropriation of these funds up in the air, most likely until early 2009. The Trust is continuing to advocate for the appropriation of these funds for Fiscal Year 2009, and will similarly be urging the appropriation of additional funds toward the \$60 million total US authorization in subsequent years.

In addition, the Trust continues to educate policy makers in Washington and other interested agriculture and related groups in the United States on the importance of crop diversity and the Trust for combating hunger, enhancing agriculture, and assisting global food security. In addition to individual meetings to share this information, the Trust also provided testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives in July explaining the critical role of crop diversity and the Trust in combating hunger and maintaining food security ([Annex C](#)).

Foundation/Trust

No formal proposals have been submitted to Foundations in this period. Some outreach has continued, including a conference call with 19 Foundations hosted by the Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Funders Groups. Other contacts were made during the Director's Australia trip.

By the time of the Board meeting, the Trust should have finalized the details of a \$1 million donation from the Lilian Goldman Charitable Trust. This grant will be used to support beans, rice and vegetables.

Other

The Trust has received donations from individuals totaling \$63,026. Of particular note are two donations sent by post, by the same individual, totaling \$59,574, and a \$300 donation from a 4th grade class in a New York Grammar school.

Action

That Members discuss the issues raised in this paper and provide feedback.

Annex A	Global Crop Diversity Trust Pledges (1 page)
Annex B	Section 3202. Global Crop Diversity Trust – part of the 2008 Farm Bill (1 page)
Annex C	Global Crop Diversity Trust Testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives (7 pages)

**GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST
PLEDGES**

DONOR	TOTAL PLEDGES AS AT OCTOBER 1, 2008			TOTAL PAID 1-Oct-08 USD
	AMOUNT PLEGGED	USD EQUIVALENT*	PERIOD OF PLEDGE	
Countries				
Australia	AUD 16,500,000	12,483,057		10,720,891
Brazil	USD 30,000	30,000	2002	30,000
Canada	CAD 10,000,000	9,260,897	2003-2012	5,231,733
Colombia	USD 35,802	35,802	2002	35,802
Egypt	USD 166,657	166,657		25,000
Ethiopia	USD 50,000	50,000		25,000
Germany	EUR 7,500,000	10,790,106	2006-2010	4,158,600
India	USD 50,000	50,000	2006	50,000
Ireland	EUR 3,000,000	4,341,168	2007-2009	2,867,500
Italy	USD 300,000	300,000	2005	300,000
Italy	EUR 500,000	689,096	2007	689,096
New Zealand	USD 50,000	50,000	2005	50,000
Norway	NOK 50,000,000	7,676,617	2004-2006	7,676,617
Norway	USD 7,944,708	7,944,708	2006-2008	7,944,708
Sweden	SEK 80,000,000	11,886,620	2005 - 2007	11,886,620
Sweden	USD 261,248	261,248	2007-2009	101,999
Switzerland	USD 10,817,704	10,817,704	2001-2009	10,717,704
Switzerland	CHF 150,000	118,478	2004-2005	118,478
United Kingdom	GBP 10,000,000	19,468,582	2007-2008	19,468,582
United States	USD 6,500,000	6,500,000	2001-2007	6,500,000
Foundations				
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation/UN Foundation	USD 29,923,940	29,923,940	2007-2011	12,990,217
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	GBP 605,000	1,057,573	2003-2007	1,057,573
The Gordon J. Hammersley Foundation	USD 20,000	20,000	2008	20,000
Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation	USD 200,000	200,000	2006-2007	200,000
Rockefeller Foundation	USD 305,000	305,000	2003-2007	305,000
Sam Spiegel Foundation	USD 5,000	5,000	2008	5,000
Syngenta Foundation	USD 246,732	246,732	2003-2007	246,732
United Nations Foundation	USD 775,000	775,000	2003-2007	775,000
Corporations				
Dupont/Pioneer Hi-bred	USD 1,000,000	1,000,000	2004-2007	1,000,000
Grains Research & Development Corporation	USD 5,000,000	5,000,000	2004-2011	3,252,450
Syngenta AG	USD 1,000,000	1,000,000	2004	1,000,000
Other				
CGIAR Centres	USD 210,000	210,000	2001-2002	210,000
International Seed Federation	USD 30,000	30,000	2007	30,000
Systemwide Genetic Resources Programme	USD 255,000	255,000	2001-2002	255,000
World Bank - CGIAR	USD 200,000	200,000	2002	200,000
Individual Donations	USD 64,910	64,910		64,910
Total		\$143,213,896		\$110,210,213

The provision was enacted as section 3202 part of the 2008 Farm Bill (the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008; Public Law 110-246)

SEC. 3202. GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST.

(a) CONTRIBUTION.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall contribute funds to endow the Global Crop Diversity Trust (referred to in this section as the “Trust”) to assist in the conservation of genetic diversity in food crops through the collection and storage of the germplasm of food crops in a manner that provides for—

- (1) the maintenance and storage of seed collections;
- (2) the documentation and cataloguing of the genetics and characteristics of conserved seeds to ensure efficient reference for researchers, plant breeders, and the public;
- (3) building the capacity of seed collection in developing countries;
- (4) making information regarding crop genetic data publicly available for researchers, plant breeders, and the public (including through the provision of an accessible Internet website);
- (5) the operation and maintenance of a back-up facility in which are stored duplicate samples of seeds, in the case of natural or man-made disasters; and
- (6) oversight designed to ensure international coordination of those actions and efficient, public accessibility to that diversity through a cost-effective system.

(b) United States CONTRIBUTION LIMIT.—The aggregate contributions of funds of the Federal Government provided to the Trust shall not exceed 25 percent of the total amount of funds contributed to the Trust from all sources.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$60,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Global Crop Diversity Trust Testimony to the U.S. House of Representatives



TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

BY

DR. CARY FOWLER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF
THE GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

TO

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPECIALTY CROPS, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2008

On behalf of the Global Crop Diversity Trust I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and in particular for the Committee's recognition of the importance of the Trust's work through the authorization in the Farm Bill of the appropriation of \$60 million to fund the United States' contribution to the endowment of the Trust.

Background

The recent food price crisis has thrown into sharp focus many of the development challenges we face to ensure food security: population growth, little new land, water shortages, uncertain energy supplies, and climate change. These mean that soon our crops must produce more food, on the same amount of land, with less water, with more expensive and less secure supplies of energy and fertilizer, under climactic conditions which farming has never experienced.

There is no possible scenario in which we can continue to grow the food we require without crop diversity. But this diversity is at risk, dying even in the seed banks where it has been placed for safekeeping. Individual varieties, such as the 200,000 varieties of wheat, have different traits for drought or heat tolerance, nutritional quality, disease resistance and every other possible characteristic. Crop diversity is therefore the raw material for improving and adapting crops to meet all future challenges.

But securing crop diversity is a unique challenge because:

- There is complete agreement regarding its paramount importance – it is the biological foundation of all agriculture, everywhere.
- There is total global interdependence – no country in the world is self-sufficient in the genetic diversity of the crops which feed its people.
- The solution is available and simple – all the political agreements are in place, the science is understood, the institutions exist. Only the finance is missing.
- There is only one organisation working worldwide to solve this problem – the Global Crop Diversity Trust.

Therefore, full funding of the Global Crop Diversity Trust's endowment will guarantee that the genetic diversity of the world's main food crops will be secured, conserved and available – forever.

Global Crop Diversity Trust

The Trust is an independent international organization, established in 2004. Its founders were the international research centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, both of which recognized the urgent need for a dedicated organisation to undertake a task which was beyond the mandate of either organisation.

Since at least the 1980s, crop yield improvements have been the single greatest contributor to increased production. But the rate of increase has been dropping steadily. Not coincidentally, since 1980 the share of overseas development assistance for agriculture has plummeted from more than 16% to less than 4% of Official Development Assistance.

These cuts impact not only research, but the conservation of the raw material for much research – the collections held by genebanks. The crop research called for so frequently, in particular with regard to fostering a second green revolution in Africa or adapting agriculture to climate change, is based on the material found in genebanks, the most important of which internationally are held by research organizations. The lack of security of funding threatens these, with implications for agriculture everywhere. The Trust will, once fully endowed, fund the maintenance of the world's most important genebanks so that the fluctuations of individual research budgets have no impact on the crucial collections of crop diversity.

The Trust has already raised \$143 million, from developed and developing country donors as varied as the United Kingdom, India, Australia and Ethiopia, as well as from

philanthropic foundations and corporations. The US was one of the first countries to announce support for the Trust, prior even to its formal establishment as an international organization. This early vote of confidence was vital to encouraging other donors, who have since come through very strongly. As other countries have stepped forward to fund the Trust, the US is now one of the Trust's smallest donors. In a reversal of the earlier situation, now the lagging contribution by the US has the potential to undermine confidence in the Trust, and consequently future fundraising.

“To ensure that the most critical collections of rice, wheat, corn, potatoes and the other staple crops that feed the world continue to be protected, the Global Crop Diversity Trust deserves continued support...At a time when science is providing the keys to understanding how best to use the contents of these precious food crop genebanks in order to benefit humanity and the environment, the collections themselves are under threat. The Global Crop Diversity Trust will help protect these irreplaceable sources of global biodiversity, ensuring that their promise is fully realized.”

Dr. Norman E. Borlaug
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, 2007 Recipient of Congressional Gold Medal

The Work of the Trust

The Global Crop Diversity Trust is the sole worldwide response to the current food crisis, offering a clear and achievable solution. The Trust will ensure the conservation and availability of the vast genetic diversity of our food crops. Although less than four years old, the Trust has already raised \$143 million, and has launched a comprehensive programme to:

- regenerate and safely duplicate threatened, and unique, collections (the Trust is already funding regeneration activities in 45 collections in 32 countries);
- upgrade key genebanks holding multiple globally important collections;
- safely duplicate collections at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault (the Trust has organised and funded the shipment of over 100 million seeds to this unique back-up facility in the Arctic);
- develop information systems for better management of, and dramatically improved access to, collections—
 - the Trust is funding the development of a version of USDA's genebank management software which can be rolled out for free to developing countries;
 - the Trust is also developing a system to enable plant breeders to search collections globally, by trait, over the internet, which will massively expand the ability of scientists to research and access useful traits;
- screen collections for traits essential to meet climate change and other challenges
 - the Trust has just entered into partnerships with institutions in 15 countries to support screening of collections of banana and plantain, barley, chickpea, coconut, cowpea, grasspea, lentil, maize, millet, rice, sweet potato, taro, wheat, and yam; and
- develop improved conservation methods for difficult-to- conserve crops of particular

importance to the poor in tropical countries, such as cassava, yam, and sweet potato.

This programme can be seen as preparing a ‘global system’ for the conservation and availability of crop diversity, whose permanent maintenance the Trust will fund through its endowment. The Trust has also already started funding vitally important collections from its endowment – effectively providing grants which will last in perpetuity and therefore removing all funding uncertainty from vital collections. In 2008, long-term grants drawn from the Trust’s endowment will already total \$1.95 million and will provide security to cassava, wheat, barley, faba bean, lentil, pearl millet, banana, bean, grass pea, sorghum, yam, forages, rice, and the management of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

Long-term funding for a long-term task

The *ex situ* conservation of crop diversity is by its nature a very long-term task, requiring consistent and reliable funding.¹ Uncertainties in funding for genebanks place collections at risk, and even short-term interruptions in funding can result in the loss of unique material. The current funding approaches - a reliance on annual funding from central treasuries and on traditional 3 to 5 year grants - are failing, despite the importance to development of a well-funded system of genebanks worldwide.

There is a focus from most donors on short-term impact, though shortfalls in genebank funding can reduce options for agriculture forever. In the long-term nature of genebanks’ work, a 3 to 5 year grant provides very little meaningful security. Only an endowment fund can provide the requisite guarantees of truly long-term funding, which will insulate the vital work of genebanks from budget cuts and changes in funding fashions, while still exposing them to the rigours of effective project management, external review and proper accountability.

The Congress endorsed the Trust’s mission and the need to fund it through a permanent endowment when it enacted section 3202 of the 2008 Farm Bill. Section 3202 authorized the appropriation of \$60 million over 5 years to fund the US contribution to the Trust endowment.

The appropriation of funds for the Trust endowment is a concrete contribution to one of the most important issues facing agriculture - the conservation of its biological base. Globally, current arrangements for conserving crop diversity are failing to provide adequate security for this vital resource.

- The international community therefore funds the conservation of crop diversity in a patchwork of individual commitments and arrangements, yet does not have the reassurance that the job is being done.
- The Trust, as the sole dedicated worldwide funding organization for the conservation of crop diversity, is uniquely placed to allow donors to view this work globally, rather than through disparate institutions across the globe.
- The Trust allows donors to apply rigorous standards to donations whilst avoiding the competition and duplication inherent in current funding arrangements.
- The Trust allows donors to remove funding uncertainty from the conservation of crop diversity as a whole, while reinforcing the need for individual institutions to perform.

¹ The *ex situ* conservation of different species means conserving them outside of their natural habitats, in the case of seeds in a seed bank or genebank facility.

- The Trust will promote the effective, goal-oriented, economically efficient and sustainable global system which the conservation of crop diversity requires.

“Low agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan Africa is due, in part, to the limited use of agricultural inputs, such as fertilizer and improved seed varieties, and the lack of modern farming practices.”

“The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding to address food insecurity in Africa has been primarily for emergency food aid, which has been crucial in helping to alleviate food crises but has not addressed the underlying factors that contributed to the recurrence and severity of these crises.”

Government Accountability Office (May 2008)

What sets the Trust apart?

In a world where there are many important, and apparently overwhelming, issues demanding attention, it is important to note how the Trust differs from other organizations competing for donations.

- *Its mission is achievable.* It is rare that the world faces a major problem which has highly disturbing implications but an identifiable and achievable solution. This is precisely what the Trust offers; a costed, measurable plan, relying on existing institutions and simple proven technologies.
- *It is the only solution.* Crop diversity is disappearing, even in the genebanks built to protect it, and there is no organization apart from the Trust tackling this problem worldwide. The Trust offers a unique opportunity to put in place a rational and cost-effective system for the conservation of the resources which underpin all agriculture and the world’s future food supplies.

US Funding for the Trust

\$60 million has been authorized for the Trust in the 2008 Farm Bill. The Trust hopes to make significant strides towards this target in the early period of the Bill, due to the twin imperatives of the urgency of delivering its mission, and the importance of establishing clear support from the US in the eyes of other potential donors.

In this regard, we urge the Congress to ensure that the precious and irreplaceable resource of our crop diversity is preserved through the provision of funding for the Trust from funds provided in the FY2008 supplemental appropriations provided for agricultural development. In addition, we urge that funding for the Trust endowment be provided within the FY2009 Foreign Operations appropriations at a level which would ensure fulfillment of the \$60 million Trust authorization within the 5-year timetable approved by this Committee and enacted by Congress.

“Since crop genebanks around the world are so critical for sustaining the US food supply system and a major sector of the US economy, full support for the Global Crop Diversity Trust and its conservation goals is essential.”

Safeguarding the Future of U.S. Agriculture
University of California, 2005

The Global Crop Diversity Trust is extremely grateful to the Committee for the chance to present this testimony, as the Committee considers the complex issues surrounding agricultural development assistance and food aid. We will of course welcome the opportunity to respond to any questions that the Committee may have in this regard.