

FOR ACTION

Minutes and Actions Arising from Executive Board - 4 meeting

Purpose

To seek Board approval of draft Minutes from the fourth Executive Board meeting held in November 2008 and inform the Board on the status of the actions arising.

Issues

The draft minutes were sent to Members on December 9th 2008 seeking comments by January 18th 2009.

The status of actions arising is provided in the table below.

No	Actions arising	Responsibility	Due date	Status
Action 4	The Board agreed to individually provide recommendations for consideration for Board nomination by the Donors' Council and Governing Body. Suggested names and addresses should be provided to the Chair of the Donors' Council and Secretary of the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA respectively	Individual Members	Before next meeting	In progress - Skills matrix and process developed by Secretariat No call has yet been made. For discussion at EB5
Action 6	The Board noted the Fundraising Report and agreed to follow up on the suggestions from this session with the Trust Secretariat, as relevant.	Individual Members	Before next meeting	Fundraising suggestions received at EB4 have been followed up where possible, including with Board members, and a summary will be presented at the meeting.
Action 10	The Board agreed to send a Board Resolution to the Norwegian Government stating its concerns regarding current access to the Svalbard site and outlining its preferred policy	Secretariat/ Board	Before anniversary	Completed – Resolution was drafted and approved by the Board in February 2009. Resolution sent to the Government of Norway on 27/03/09 (<u>Annex B</u>)
Decision 13	The Board agreed to approve the Headquarters Agreement out-of-session if necessary, if the process is finalized before EB5.	Board	As required	The Headquarters Agreement was approved by Members and scheduled to be signed in March this year when we received late communication from the Italian Government that they could not agree at

				<p>this stage to some of the wording. Revised wording was then provided by the Italian Government in the form of a new proposal which they categorised as containing minor changes. We, however, view one change as substantial and important. The proposal and an analysis of the proposal by the Trust Legal Advisor will be tabled at the meeting for discussion.</p>
Decision 14	<p>The Board agreed not to undertake an external review of the Trust until 2011 which would coincide with the end of project review by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Board agreed to start work in 2010 on the developing the external review ToRs, panel names and consultation</p>			<p>ToRs and panel member suggestions for mid-term evaluation were approved by the UNF and BMGF. Panel members approached and all 3 have agreed to participate. Contracts are being developed with a nominal start date for June 2009.</p>
EB3 – carry over Action 3	<p>The Board agreed to proceed with obtaining Directors and Officers insurance for \$2.5 million for a 3-year duration with the Policy Holder being Bioversity International.</p>	Secretariat		<p>Completed – it has taken over a year to negotiate and finalise this agreement with Chubb. Agreement was signed on 14 April 2009.</p>

Action

That Members approve the Minutes of the fourth Executive Board meeting and note the status of actions arising.



Resolution of the Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust:

Welcoming the establishment of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault as a great step forward in ensuring the security of the world's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and *congratulating* the Government of Norway on this achievement;

Recognizing that the two main goals of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault are:

- to provide robust security for the world's unique crop diversity in a manner that also meets high technical standards for long-term storage; and
- to utilize the Seed Vault's tremendous potential to advance the larger cause of conservation of crop diversity through increased public awareness and building of political and scientific support;

Appreciating the immense publicity that has accompanied the opening of the Seed Vault, which has contributed greatly to public awareness of the need to conserve crop diversity and the continuing interest of the public, the media and influential persons in the operation of the Seed Vault;

Recognizing the productive partnership between the Norwegian Government, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and NordGen in the continuing operation of the Global Seed Vault;

Aware that discussions are taking place among the partners regarding the formulation of a visitation policy for the Seed Vault;

Aware of the obvious paramount need to ensure the security of the Seed Vault and its seed deposits from both intentional actions, such as terrorism or extortion, and accidental damage;

Mindful nevertheless of the need to balance security concerns with the need to project transparency and openness, in order to ensure public support, counteract misinformation and encourage broad participation by genebanks around the world;

Convinced of the need for flexibility in the visitation policy to ensure that full advantage can be taken of the continued interest of the media and influential persons in the operation of the Seed Vault and in the wider issues of the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;

Mindful of the sovereignty of Norway over the Archipelago of Spitsbergen and the Svalbard Global Seed Vault;

Urges the Norwegian Government, the Global Crop Diversity Trust and NordGen, as ongoing partners in the operation of the Seed Vault, to agree as soon as possible on a flexible visitation policy that will enable the Global Seed Vault to fully achieve its goals, and in particular to ensure that the media and influential persons can, where necessary, have full access under the supervision of the partners to the Seed Vault and to the room containing the deposited seeds in an environment that still enables them to bring the story of the Seed Vault to the world in an effective manner and to ensure financial support for the conservation of crop diversity.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Margaret Catley-Carlson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

27th March 2009

Margaret Catley-Carlson
Board Chair
On behalf of the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust