

FOR ACTION

Board Business

Purpose

1. To initiate a process to address contractual issues with the Executive Director given that FAO has declined to continue to provide him with a staff contract beyond December 2011
2. To review the results from the 2nd Board self-assessment and determine if any action is required to improve Board performance.
3. To approve the draft report for submission to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

3. Board report to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Background

The Relationship Agreement between the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture states that “the Executive Board shall submit an annual report on the activities of the Trust to the Governing Body of the International Treaty” (Article 3.3).

Issues

Second Session of the Governing Body in November 2007

The Executive Director presented the 2007 annual report at the Second Session of the Governing Body in November 2007 in Rome. The Governing Body noted its appreciation for the significant contribution of the Trust to the objectives of the Treaty. It welcomed the activities being undertaken by the Trust as an essential element of the funding strategy but expressed concern that contributions from other elements of the funding strategy were yet to become available. It recognized the executive independence of the Trust and stressed the need for close cooperation. It emphasized that guidance for the Trust was provided under Activities 5, 6 and 17 of the *Global Plan of Action* and Articles 5 and 17 of the Treaty. Finally the Governing Body noted its appreciation of the progress made in establishing the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and further noted that the Chair of the Governing Body would be invited as an *ex officio* member of the International Advisory Council of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.

Third Session of the Governing Body in June 2009

The Chair of the Executive Board presented the 2009 annual report and also presented the document, *Draft fund disbursement strategy of the Global Crop Diversity Trust*, which was submitted to the Governing Body for consultation in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution of the Trust.

The presentation identified the elements of the International Treaty that were supported by the Trust and the activities undertaken for this purpose. In particular, it highlighted activities

aimed at strengthening the global system of *ex situ* conservation, providing support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the regeneration of unique and endangered accessions, their characterization, entry of related information into databases, and safety duplication. The presentation noted that the Trust is also supporting screening of collections, research into better and less costly means for conserving vegetatively propagated samples, and the development of information systems to improve genebank management and enhance the ability of plant breeders and researchers to search genebank accessions globally. The presentation also described efforts to ensure the permanent conservation of collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture of global importance.

The Governing Body commended the Trust for its excellent programmatic performance during the past biennium, which had made a substantial contribution to attaining the objectives of the International Treaty. The Governing Body welcomed and supported the Funds Disbursement Strategy of the Trust. It recommended that the Trust continue to give priority in their funding activities to countries that are Contracting Parties to the International Treaty.

The Governing Body highlighted the need to maintain and develop the relationship between the International Treaty and the Trust in a complementary manner. To that effect, the Governing Body encouraged the Trust to continue its communication with the Governing Body on projects and activities funded by the Trust and trusted that this would be maintained and enhanced during the intersessional period. In commending the Trust on its performance, the Governing Body expressed its hope that this performance be matched by other areas of the Funding Strategy.

Fourth Session of the Governing Body in March 2011

The Fourth Session of the Governing Body will be held in March 2011 in Bali, Indonesia. The draft report for submission to this session is due to be submitted to the Treaty Secretariat by early December 2010. We will be sending it separately but in time to allow for review before discussion for approval at EB7.

Action

3. That Members approve the draft report for submission to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Annex A

Mailed separately - Report from the Executive Board of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture