



**Global Crop Diversity Trust
Executive Board Meeting (EB/2021/4)
27-28 October 2021, Videoconference**

Summary Report

Attending Members of the Executive Board

Hanne Maren Blåfjelldal
Peter Crane (Chair)
Mercedes Aráoz Fernández
Jean-Christophe Gouache
Masaru Iwanaga
Bernard Lehmann
Marcio de Miranda Santos
Stefan Schmitz (Executive Director of the Crop Trust)
Emmy Bartz Simmons
Eliane Ubalijoro
Joachim von Braun

Attending Observers

Catherine Bertini	Incoming Executive Board Chair 1 January 2022
Kent Nnadozie	Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Barbara Wells	Director General of the International Potato Center (CIP), CGIAR
Ismahane Elouafi	Chief Scientist - FAO

Apologies

John Gandolfo Chair of Finance and Investment Committee (FIC)

Attending Crop Trust Staff

Christoph Beck	Director of Human Resources and Corporate Operations
Hannah Bisset	Head of Communications
Hannes Dempewolf	Director of External Affairs
Luigi Guarino	Director of Science
Charlotte Lusty	Head of Programs
Laura Marshall	Communications Assistant, Minute Taker
Janet Muir	Director of Finance
Maite Rodríguez Ruiz	Financial Accountant



Minutes and Actions Arising from EB/2021/4

The status of decisions and actions arising from **EB/2021/4** is provided in the table below:

No.	Decisions
1	The Executive Board adopted the Agenda for the EB/2021/4.
2	The Executive Board adopted the Minutes and Actions arising from EB/2021/2 and EB/2021/3.
3	The Executive Board accepted the Science Report (EB/2021/4-4), the External Relations Report (EB/2021/4-5), and the HR and Corporate Operations Report (EB/2021/4-6) as presented.
4	The Executive Board approved the Revised Budget 2021.
5	The Executive Board approved the Budget for 2022.
6	The Executive Board approved the selection of Mercer as outsourced Chief Investment Officer.
7	The Executive Board approved the Institutional Risk Assessment 2022.
8	The Executive Board approved the Institutional Workplan for 2022.
9	The Executive Board confirmed the following that EB 2022/1 will be held on Thursday the 17 th and Friday the 18 th of March 2022, location to be determined.
10	The Executive Board re-elected Marcio de Miranda Santos as Vice Chair to the Executive Board.
11	The Executive Board approved the amendment to the Minutes of EB/2021/1.
12	The Executive Board decided to establish an Investment Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee effective January 1, 2022, to replace the existing Finance & Investment Committee. The Executive Board asked the Secretariat to prepare corresponding draft Charters for approval by the Executive Board.



EB/2021/4-1

Welcome, Introduction, and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair of the Executive Board, Sir Peter Crane, opened the meeting and welcomed all participants and attending Crop Trust staff. The Chair welcomed and introduced Ms. Catherine Bertini, who attended the meeting as an Observer and who will officially join the Crop Trust Executive Board as Chair effective from 1 January 2022. The members of the Executive Board provided short introductions to Ms. Bertini.

Members of the Executive Board agreed to adopt the Agenda for EB/2021/4.

1. **Decision:** The Executive Board adopted the Agenda for EB/2021/4.

EB/2021/4-2

Minutes and Actions Arising from EB/2021/1, EB/2021/2 and EB/2021/3

The Chair introduced the Minutes and Actions Arising from EB/2021/2 and EB/2021/3 and asked that the Executive Board approve these minutes.

The Chair introduced three reports as part of the Consent Agenda: the Science Report (EB/2021/4-4), the External Affairs & Communications Report (EB/2021/4-5), and the Corporate Operations & HR Report (EB/2021/4-6), and these were taken as read with brief overviews of these reports provided by staff members as summarized under the relevant sections below.

2. **Decision:** The Executive Board adopted the Minutes and Actions arising from EB/2021/2 and EB/2021/3.

At the Executive Board meeting in March 2021, the current Chair led the Executive Board in officially appointing Ms. Catherine Bertini of the United States as an Additional Member of the Executive Board with effect from 1 January 2022. Subsequently, the current Chair led the Executive Board in officially electing Ms. Bertini as the next Chair of the Executive Board with effect from 1 January 2022.

EB/2021/4-3

Setting the scene for the two-day meeting and overview of Crop Trust 2030 strategy draft

The Executive Director of the Crop Trust, Mr. Stefan Schmitz, thanked the Chair for his introduction and extended a warm welcome to all meeting participants. Mr. Schmitz presented the draft institutional strategy, "Crop Trust 2030", which included a roadmap for the growth and further development of the organization.

Mr. Schmitz provided an overview of the development of the Crop Diversity Endowment Fund since its establishment in 2003 and highlighted (1) the stability of the fund - even in times of a financial crisis (2) the 2030 goal for the fund, and (3) how the "Strategic Development of the Crop Trust" project, funded by BMZ and implemented through GIZ, will help to achieve that goal.

In addition, Mr. Schmitz outlined the future of the cooperation with CGIAR, adding that financial support will focus on essential operations, implemented through bilateral agreements with the genebanks and



in coordination with the CG Global Genebank Manager. Technical support will be in the form of expertise and services that will benefit not only CGIAR genebanks, but the entire global system.

EB/2021/4-4 Science Report

The Director of Science, Mr. Luigi Guarino, provided members with further information on the new BOLD Project, which is built upon the solid foundations of the Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) Project.

Mr. Guarino outlined the work packages (WP) of the BOLD Project:

1. Capacity development to strengthen 15 national genebanks
2. Making new diversity available, building upon the pre-breeding partnerships from the CWR Project and closely involving national genebanks from WP1
3. Linking national genebanks with national and regional seed systems
4. Safety duplication of under-represented seed collections at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault
5. Communications to celebrate outcomes and create connections between genebanks and users
6. Project management

EB/2021/4-5 External Affairs Report

The Director of External Affairs, Mr. Hannes Dempewolf, presented the Crop Trust's engagement with various multilevel policy frameworks and highlighted the importance of the Crop Trust's work to the global policy dialogues on climate change, biodiversity and food systems.

Mr. Dempewolf emphasized the Crop Trust's relationship with the Plant Treaty, including the Treaty's recognition of the Crop Trust as an essential element of its funding strategy. He presented some of the new and ongoing initiatives in collaboration with the Plant Treaty Secretariat:

1. The launch of a new funding mechanism, the Emergency Reserve Fund, to provide swift support to vulnerable genebanks and collections in urgent need;
2. Global crop conservation strategies as important reference documents for the further development of the multilateral system; and
3. Strategic communication efforts and cooperation on strategic fundraising.

Mr. Dempewolf shared that the Crop Trust will be represented at UNFCCC COP26 in panel discussions, through the network of Crop Trust patron HRH The Prince of Wales, as well as through participation in the Global Landscape Forum (GLF) Climate Conference events. Additionally, the Crop Trust has applied for Observer Status at COP27 of the UNFCCC.

EB/2021/4-6 HR & Corporate Operations Report

The Director of Human Resources and Corporate Operations, Mr. Christoph Beck, provided an update on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation in Bonn, as well as how it has affected the operations of the Crop Trust Secretariat. He described the ongoing development of a hybrid remote work policy for after the pandemic that will allow staff to work partly from home and partly in the office.



Mr. Beck outlined the ongoing reviews of policies and quality standards at the Crop Trust to remain in line with the international standards. He provided further details on the new ICT system that can scale up as the organization grows.

3. **Decision:** The Executive Board accepted the Science Report (EB/2021/4-4), the External Relations Report (EB/2021/4-5), and the HR and Corporate Operations Report (EB/2021/4-6) as presented.

EB/2021/4-7

Finance and Investment Report

Investment Management and Endowment Fund

Ms. Muir provided an update to the Executive Board on the main highlights from the circulated document "Finance & Investment report": the Endowment Fund investment management, environmental, social and corporate governance (ESG) investment planning, the Revised Budget for 2021, and the Annual Budget for 2022.

As at 30 September 2021, the total estimated value of the endowment fund amounted to USD 323 million against a value of USD 299 million at 31 December 2020, which represents an increase of approximately USD 24m for the year as a result of contributions received from USAID, New Zealand, India and Limagrain and investment gains net of withdrawal and fees.

The KfW concessional loan has an estimated value of USD 65 million as at 30 September 2021 against a value of USD 66 million as at 31 December 2020. The USD 65 million consists of the loan capital (USD 58m), the balance of grants received towards interest payments (USD 1.1m) and net investment gains (USD 6m). Repayments on the loan capital will commence in November 2022 and take place every six months.

ESG Investing

Ms. Muir presented the current trends, debates and developments on ESG investing and emphasized that a shift to integrate ESG and sustainability into investment portfolios is a transition, not an immediate outcome. She gave an overview of the development of the Crop Trust's ESG strategy to date, outlining the positive developments related to ESG. Ms. Muir also presented the roadmap for a new ESG Strategy for 2022. She highlighted the ESG risks that are currently included in the institutional risk matrix and that these risks will be reviewed as part of the ESG Strategy development process.

2021 Revised Budget

Ms. Muir presented the circulated document, "Revised Budget 2021", which provided a detailed variance analysis report of the revised budget against the Executive Board-approved budget for 2021 based on an analysis of actual expenditure to 31 July 2021 and projected expenditure for the remainder of the year, following consultation with budget-holders.

Ms. Muir explained the reasons for the revised expenditures and highlighted that there may be further reductions in expenditure by the year end as a result of changes to project and operational workplans and due to Covid 19 restrictions.



Ms. Muir outlined that the FIC approved the 2021 Revised Budget at its meeting on 11 October 2021 and is recommending the approval of this budget to the Executive Board for its approval.

4. **Decision:** The Executive Board approved the 2021 Revised Budget .

Annual Budget 2022

Ms. Muir presented the circulated document “Annual Budget 2022” which provided detailed analysis of forecasted income and expenditure and the key assumptions used in developing the annual budget. Owing to uncertainty around the next phase and budget of the CGIAR Genebank Platform, a one-year Annual Budget for 2022 rather than a three-year Multi-Year Budget (2022–2024) was presented at this time.

Ms. Muir highlighted that the detailed draft Annual Budget 2022 was prepared in conjunction with all budget holders and the Senior Management Team and set out the key assumptions used in the preparation of the Annual Budget 2022.

Ms. Muir outlined that the Crop Trust is presenting a balanced budget for 2022 based on the maximum withdrawal of 4% from the USD endowment fund. The Chair of the Executive Board emphasized that the withdrawal policy of 4% from the Endowment Fund has heretofore never been exceeded and that, going forward, the Executive Board should maintain this policy.

The overall budget for 2022 shows a significant reduction in program expenditure as a result of the Genebank Platform program coming to a close at the end of 2021. Future CGIAR contributions to the genebanks will no longer go through the Crop Trust however the Crop Trust will continue to support the genebanks with the continuation of the current Long-term Grants and Long-term Partner Agreements. It was agreed that the significant reduction in program expenditure needs to be clearly explained and communicated.

Ms. Muir outlined that the FIC approved the 2022 Annual Budget and is recommending the approval of the 2022 Annual Budget to the Executive Board for its approval.

5. **Decision:** The Executive Board approved the Budget for 2022.

EB/2021/4-8

Selection of outsourced Chief Investment Officer (oCIO)

Ms. Muir presented a circulated document outlining the process for the selection of a provider for outsourced Chief Investment Officer services. The FIC recommended Mercer as the preferred candidate for Executive Board consideration and approval.

6. **Decision:** The Executive Board approved the selection of Mercer as outsourced Chief Investment Officer.

EB/2021/4-9

Institutional Risk Assessment 2022

Ms. Maite Rodríguez-Ruiz presented the circulated document “Institutional Risk Assessment for 2022” and provided an overview of the institutional risk management matrix, its methodology, process and



purpose, and explained that the goal of the matrix is to ensure there are appropriate policies in place to identify, address and mitigate institutional risks where possible.

Ms. Rodríguez Ruiz outlined that the FIC approved the Institutional Risk Assessment for 2022 at its meeting on 11 October 2021 and is recommending the approval of this assessment to the Executive Board for its approval.

7. **Decision:** The Executive Board approved the Institutional Risk Assessment 2022.

EB/2021/4-10

Genebank Platform and the Future of Cooperation with CGIAR

The Head of Programs, Charlotte Lusty, outlined the current transition from the current Genebank Platform program, which has been in place since 2017, and the Crop Trust's future cooperation with CGIAR and future support of the CGIAR genebanks. She presented the new three-year Genebank Initiative 2022-2024, which the Crop Trust has been heavily involved in developing and which will replace the Genebank Platform. Further, she highlighted that the structure of the new initiative corresponds to the activities and approaches developed under the Genebank Platform.

Ms. Lusty outlined the likely future development of the CGIAR genebanks, describing that a strong network of partnerships is being created, in which the Crop Trust will continue to play an important role. She further emphasized the critical points of collaboration on a technical level, with the data portal Genesys and the development of data management for genebanks, being of central importance.

Lastly, Ms. Lusty outlined some of the steps in developing the new partnership with CGIAR represented by the new three-year Genebank Initiative, especially revisiting, and updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) about the role and responsibilities of both organizations in funding and overseeing the genebanks' activities.

EB/2021/4-11

A Financing Strategy for the Crop Trust

The Director of External Affairs, Mr. Hannes Dempewolf, presented plans for the development of a comprehensive Financing Strategy for the Crop Trust. He outlined that this strategy is one of the main activities under the BMZ/GIZ-funded project "Strategic Strengthening of the Crop Trust." He introduced Mr. Charlie Michaud and Ms. Jodie Jones from CCS, who joined the Executive Board meeting for this agenda item.

EB/2021/4-12

Institutional Workplan 2022

Mr. Schmitz presented the Institutional Workplan 2022 by summarizing the planned activities for each section for the next year.

8. **Decision:** The Executive Board approved the Institutional Workplan for 2022.



EB/2021/4-13
Any other business

The Chair introduced the proposed dates for the next meeting. Mr. Marcio de Miranda Santo and Mr. Schmitz expressed their immense gratitude to Sir Peter Crane for his dedicated and diligent service to the Crop Trust as Chair of the Executive Board.

9. **Decision:** The Executive Board confirmed the following:

- That EB 2022/1 will be held 17 and 18 March 2021, location to be determined.

EB/2020/4-14
Board Business

Election of Crop Trust Executive Board Vice Chair

10. **Decision:** The Executive Board re-elected Marcio de Miranda Santos as Vice Chair to the Executive Board

Amendment of the Minutes of the Executive Board Meeting from 24-25 March 2021 (EB/2021/1)

The minutes of the Executive Board Meeting from 24-25 March 2021 (EB/2021/1) did not reflect the appointment of Ms. Catherine Bertini as new Chair.

11. **Decision:** The Executive Board approved the amendment to the Minutes of EB/2021/1.

Establishment of an Investment Committee and a Finance and Audit Committee

1. **Decision:** The Executive Board decided to establish an Investment Committee and a Finance & Audit Committee effective January 1, 2022. These two Committees shall replace the existing Finance & Investment Committee. The Executive Board asked the Secretariat to prepare corresponding draft Charters for approval by the Executive Board.

The Chair closed the meeting.