

**Summary Minutes of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Executive Board
(EB14)**

Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust)

25-26 February 2014, Longyearbyen, Svalbard, Norway

The following members of the Executive Board of the Crop Trust were present:

Walter Fust (Chairperson of the Executive Board)
Tim Fischer (Vice-Chairperson)
Mr. Peter Crane
Mr. Gebisa Ejeta
Mr. Prem Lal Gautam
Mr. Maurício Antônio Lopes
Ms. Mary Ann P. Sayoc
Ms. Klaus Töpfer
Mr. Ren Wang (FAO)

The following member sent apologies for not being able to attend:

Mr. Lew Coleman (Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee)

The following staff members of the Crop Trust attended:

Ms. Marie Haga (Executive Director)
Ms. Paula Bramel (Deputy Executive Director)
Mr. Michael Koch (Finance Director)
Mr. Luis Salazar (Communications Manager)
Mr. Hannes Dempewolf (Scientist)
Ms. Mary Ghira (Executive Office Assistant)

The following invited observers were present:

Mr. Shakeel Bhatti (Secretary of the ITPGRFA)
Ms. Barbara Kosak (Chairperson of the Donors Council)
Mr. Daniele Manzella (ITPGRFA)
Mr. Falk Schmidt (IAAS)

The following guests participated in parts of the meeting:

Mr. Jens Olav Saether (Vice Governor of Svalbard)
Mr. Cary Fowler (Advisor to the Crop Trust)
Mr. Geoff Hawtin (Advisor to the Crop Trust)

1. Welcome, introduction and adoption of the Agenda

The Chair welcomed and introduced the new Board Members.

1. Decision: Board Members adopted the provisional agenda for the 14th meeting of the Executive Board (Annex A).

2. Introduction to the World of Plant Genetic Resources

I. The Crop Trust's History

Staff and advisors provided a presentation on the origins and evolution of the Crop Trust over its first decade.

II. Strategic Work Plan and Fundraising Strategy

Staff discussed documents that were adopted at the thirteenth Executive Board meeting held in October 2013: The Strategic Work Plan and the Fundraising Strategy.

- The Crop Trust keeps to its mandate and Constitution. The core work of preserving and making available crop diversity will be complemented by selected projects, such as on Crop Wild Relatives and on “Big Data”/ Diversity Seek.
- The global system of *ex situ* conservation aims to cover, through the endowment fund, the following elements: (i) USD 500 million under Phase 1, by end-2015, to safeguard international collections protected under Article 15 of the International Treaty; and (ii) an additional USD 350 million under Phase 2, by end-2018, to add the most important regional and national collections of crops protected under Annex 1 of the International Treaty, plus to finance other costs such as the operation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, the development and maintenance of information systems, and the operation of the Crop Trust Secretariat.
- The fundraising approach is about establishing a global coalition of countries and other donors to support the funding goals for the Crop Trust. Over the past decade, the Crop Trust has raised some USD 350 million of external resources. This includes nearly USD 160 million paid into the endowment, which currently has a market value of about USD 170 million.
- The Crop Trust is currently reaching out to some 50 governments, including the G20 countries and many other high and middle-income countries. There are two annual budget cycles available to have the request for endowment funding reflected in governments' budgets, i.e. for the 2015 budget year and for the 2016 budget year.
- Current funding for the endowment comes primarily from governments, which will continue to be the focus for Phase 1 of the fundraising effort. Private donors, such as foundations, corporates, high-net-worth individuals and private households, including through crowd-sourcing campaigns, will be targeted selectively for Phase 1 and with an even stronger focus under Phase 2.

Board members expressed overall support for the Strategic Work Plan and the Fundraising Strategy. They suggested that:

- Middle-income countries should be included in the donor outreach.
- Beyond governments, consideration should also be given to possible financing of genebanks through users of the genetic material.
- Options for crowd-funding should be considered, including by establishing a network of supporters.
- Climate Change and adaptation of agriculture to it should be an important focus for outreach activities.
- The Endowment Fund name could be changed for better name recognition, and Board members should support management and staff in their donor outreach.
- Capital could also be mobilized from institutional fund managers such as sovereign wealth funds, using a suitable value proposition.

III. The CGIAR Consortium (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Consortium)

The presentation was provided by the CGIAR. It covered CGIAR's current CRPs and a second generation of CRPs planned for the future. Board members commented as follows:

- There were questions about how donors to the CGIAR saw themselves, whether as donors or investors.
- There is the need for a clear display of the impacts of CGIAR research and a harmonized science strategy.
- The CGIAR should work on a better interface on PGR policy with the International Treaty.
- There is a need to better understand the 'CGIAR change' process, so that the Board could better understand the relationships that need to be looked after.

IV. The CGIAR Fund Office

The presentation was provided by the CGIAR Fund Office on the following topics:

- Introduction to the CGIAR (15 Centers, 16 CRPs)
- Consortium and fund pillars and their functions
- Governance and oversight; Fund Council meetings twice a year
- Funding increasing through windows 1 and 2 vs. window 3

Board members commented as follows:

- Whether the genebank CRP was being independently evaluated (staff explained that an independent evaluation will take place at the close of the CRP, at the end of 2016).

V. The International Treaty (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - ITPGRFA)

The presentation was provided by the Secretariat of the International Treaty:

- 132 parties have ratified the Treaty to date
- History, coverage and role of the International Treaty
- Treaty governance, and role of the Treaty Secretariat
- Linkages and cooperation between the Treaty Secretariat and the Crop Trust

Board members commented as follows:

- They inquired about the number of grants extended by the Treaty (the response was that this was decided upon by the governing body of the Treaty).
- They inquired about the target size for the Access and Benefit-sharing Fund (ABS Fund) (the response was that it is USD 160 million over 5 years).

3. Minutes and actions arising from EB13

Seeking Board approval of the draft Minutes from the thirteenth Executive Board meeting held in October 2013, and informing the Board of the status of the actions arising.

4. Program Introduction and Status Report 2014

Staff provided an introduction and update on the program in 2014, including:

- Conserving forever: Genebank CRP and Long Term Grants
- Final report on the Global System Project
- Information Systems
- Crop Wild Relative Project
- Crop Conservation Strategies

Board members commented as follows:

- They emphasized the central importance of the CRP to the Crop Trust. They were impressed with the reporting tool and stressed that cost-control is important. The Board needs to understand progress of the CRP on a 'macro scale' and recommended for the Crop Trust to prepare a high-level summary (e.g. on cost control).
- They discussed CRP governance arrangements, a tri-partite agreement that includes the Consortium and Bioversity International. The Crop Trust is responsible and accountable for the CRP. In the first instance, the genebanks report and are accountable to the Crop Trust and then the Crop Trust reports to the CGIAR Consortium.
- The Crop Trust has been in close contact with the genebank managers of the CGIAR, and further dialogue is needed and planned with the Director Generals of the centers.
- They discussed the management of intellectual property rights in the framework of the CRP, and the relevance of the CBD and the Nagoya protocol.
- They discussed ways to reduce the burden of reporting, through a common set of indicators, based on targets.

- They felt that the Crop Trust needed to continue to find the right balance between upstream and downstream work, and to consider how new initiatives fit in.

5. The Next Generation of Genetic Resource Information Systems

Staff provided the Board with an update on the 'next generation of genetic resource information systems' and an opportunity to discuss the Crop Trust's future role in the initiative.

Board members offered the following comments:

- They welcomed the Crop Trust's involvement in this initiative. The focus should not only be on genotyping data but also phenotypic data resulting from field evaluation of interesting diversity. All relevant types of data need to be considered and important lessons could be learnt from scientists who have been working with model organisms on these types of questions.
- They noted the cooperation of the Crop Trust with the International Treaty and FAO on this initiative.
- They emphasized the role of statistics and data management for an initiative like DivSeek. Only with appropriate statistical techniques and bioinformatics tools will it be possible to maximize the use of such data. They discussed the issue of intellectual property rights on data sharing, and that efforts are needed to not only exchange data but also actual germplasm.

6. New Long Term Grants & Allocation of long-term funding support

Staff described the allocation of funds through the Fund Disbursement Strategy. Staff updated the Board on the status of the Article 15 collections and their qualification for long term funding. Staff applied the Fund Disbursement Strategy criteria to identify a priority list of collections to be supported. Staff presented recommendations for new long-term grants.

7. Update on Donor Engagement

Staff provided an update on donor outreach activities since October 2013.

8. Board Business - Budget 2014, update

Annual Budget: For the 2014 annual budget, the Crop Trust is on track. The Secretariat will present any adjustments to be made to the 2014 budget, if necessary.

Selection of an Audit Firm: PWC has been selected for the audit of the end-2013 financial statements.

Associates of the Crop Trust: This concept may be considered in the future. For now, the Crop Trust is focusing its resources in reaching out to governments, foundations, corporates and individuals.

Executive Board Meetings, 2014: During the previous Board meeting, it was decided that the Board would hold a conference call in May 2014. It was also decided that the next regular Board meeting would take place on 28-29 October in Bonn, Germany. It will be difficult for some Board members to attend the meeting during the proposed dates. Alternate dates are therefore proposed, namely 6-7 November 2014.

Other updates: There was a discussion about the topic of the Crop Trust housing the Secretariat of the European Cooperative Program for Plant Genetic Resources (ECPGR). The first Board meeting date and place for 2015 was also discussed.

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Time	Agenda Item	Item for Action/ Information
DAY 1 Tuesday 25 February 2014 – Svalbardsal A		
15.30 <i>20 mins</i>	Welcome to Svalbard by Jens Olav Saether, Vice Governor of Svalbard	Information
15:50 <i>10 mins</i>	1. Introduction of the new board members and adoption of the provisional agenda	Action
16:00 <i>60 mins</i>	2. Introduction to the World of Plant Genetic Resources Part 1 - The Crop Trust History - The Strategic Work Plan and the Fundraising Strategy	Information
18:00 <i>15 mins</i>	COFFEE BREAK	
18:15 <i>20 mins</i> <i>20 mins</i> <i>20 mins</i>	2. Introduction to the World of Plant Genetic Resources Part 2 - The Plant Treaty (International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture - ITPGRFA) - The CGIAR Consortium (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Consortium) - The CGIAR Fund Office (Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Fund Office)	Information
19:15	CLOSE MEETING – DAY 1	
19:45 <i>60 mins</i>	Visit to the Seed Vault	
21:00	BOARD DINNER	

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DAY 2	Wednesday 26 February 2014 – Svalbardsal A	
08:30 <i>10 mins</i>	3. Minutes and actions arising from EB13	Action
08:40 <i>95 mins</i>	4. Introduction to the Technical work and status	Information
10:15 <i>45 mins</i>	5. The Next Generation of Genetic Resource Information Systems	Action
11:00 <i>30 mins</i>	6. New Long Term Grants	Action
11:30 <i>40 mins</i>	7. Update on Donor Engagement	Information
12:10 <i>20 mins</i>	8. Board Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Budget 2014, update- Associates of the Crop Trust- Executive Board Meetings, 2014- Other updates	Information/Action
12:30	CLOSE MEETING – DAY 2	
12:30 <i>75 mins</i>	LUNCH	