

**Summary of the 2014/3 Executive Board Meeting**  
**Global Crop Diversity Trust (Crop Trust)**  
**6-7 November 2014, Bonn, Germany**

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

Walter Fust (Chair of the Executive Board)  
Tim Fischer (Vice-Chair of the Executive Board)  
Peter Crane  
Gebisa Ejeta  
Prem Lal Gautam  
Mauricio Lopes  
Mary Ann Sayoc  
Marie Haga (Executive Director of the Crop Trust)

The following Board members sent their apologies:

Lew Coleman  
Klaus Töpfer  
Ren Wang

The following staff members of the Crop Trust attended:

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Paula Bramel    | Deputy Executive Director                          |
| Michael Koch    | Finance Director, Secretary of the Donors' Council |
| Luigi Guarino   | Senior Scientist                                   |
| Charlotte Lusty | Genebank Program Coordinator                       |
| Layla Daoud     | Corporate Operations Manager                       |
| Janet Muir      | Finance Manager                                    |
| Luis Salazar    | Communications Manager                             |
| Brian Lainoff   | Communications Assistant                           |
| Julia Greene    | Partnerships Intern                                |
| Gerald Moore    | Legal Advisor                                      |

The following invited observers were present:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Barbara Kosak  | Outgoing Chairperson of the Donors' Council |
| Jaap Satter    | Incoming Chairperson of the Donors' Council |
| Shakeel Bhatti | Secretary of the ITPGRFA                    |

**EB/2014/18. Welcome and Adoption of Provisional Agenda**

- The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed members, followed by an announcement that Klaus Töpfer has decided not to seek reappointment to the Executive Board.

**EB/2014/19. Minutes and Actions Arising from the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive Board**

- Members discussed actions arising from EB 15. Mr. Bhatti noted that, regarding EB15 minutes on cooperation between the Treaty and the Crop Trust, a draft note has been developed and shared with the Crop Trust office.

### **EB/2014/20. Donors Council Report**

- Chair Fust welcomed the newly elected Donors' Council chair, Mr. Satter of The Netherlands.
- Mr. Koch led the Board through a summary report from the 2014 Donors' Council meeting in Rome. The report identified the need for better communication and collaboration between the Treaty Secretariat and the Crop Trust; suggested joint fundraising opportunities; and requested a review of Donors' Council governance. The latter item calls for an ad hoc working group to produce a concept note, leading to decisions within one year's time. The Donors' Council endorsed raising the private sector threshold for Donors' Council membership from USD 25,000 to USD 250,000, effective January 2015, and approved Due Diligence assessments for private donors.
- Mr. Koch informed the Board that Donors' Council members elected The Netherlands to assume the role of DC Chair, and Germany to assume the role of DC Vice-Chair, effective immediately.

### **EB/2014/21. Partnerships and Communications Report**

- Messrs. Koch and Salazar presented an overview of developments in the Partnerships and Communications Team. Mr. Koch outlined the specific value propositions and options for Donors to contribute to the endowment (grants, concessional loans, Investment Sharing Facility, and bequests). He explained the roadmap of expectations for endowment growth, with the majority of funds coming from governments complemented by a systematic build-up of private donor engagement over the years.
- On Communications, Mr. Salazar explained that along with a new visual identity and upcoming new corporate website, global outreach is increasing through a international media plan that includes press releases, op-eds, and a possible image campaign to promote the Crop Trust's presence globally.
- The Board expressed confidence in the Crop Trust's work with donor partners towards achieving the endowment target, provided that this is supported by tailored communications outreach. Board members suggested that this would benefit from more clarity on the roles, interests, and focus of the Crop Trust and the Treaty. Mr. Bhatti elaborated on the Treaty-Crop Trust relationship to say that *ex situ* availability of germplasm is of primary importance for the implementation of the Treaty and its Funding Strategy.

### **EB/2014/22. Finance and Investment Report**

- Ms. Muir provided a summary of the circulated Finance & Investment Report, which outlined the activities of the Finance & Investment Committee since its last Finance & Investment Report that was considered by the Executive Board on 28 May 2014.
- The Board noted the Finance & Investment Committee recommendation that no one hedge fund investment manager or organization should hold more than 3% of the portfolio at any time.
- The Board noted that there will be a tendering exercise for Investment Advisory services in 2015, following expiry of the current Advisor's contract.

### **EB/2014/23. Science Report**

- Mr. Guarino informed the Board of progress in the implementation of activities in the key thematic areas of the Crop Trust's work in support of development of the global system called for by the Global Plan of Action, followed by a presentation from Ms. Lusty on proposed changes to the process of allocation of long-term grants. Mr. Guarino's summary emphasized that all the Crop Trust's technical work is executed through partnerships.
- The key thematic areas of the Crop Trust's technical work are: Conserving Forever, Collection and Use of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR), Information Systems (including DivSeek), and Crop Communities.

### **EB/2014/24. Human Resources and Corporate Operations Report**

- Ms. Daoud provided an overview of staffing structures and policies requiring Board approval, emphasizing that staff is the most important resource of the Crop Trust.
- Ms. Daoud summarized the diversity and gender balance of staff as well as staff changes over the past year. 2014 was the first year of regular operations upon shifting status from a hosted organization to an independent organization.

### **EB/2014/25. Risk Management**

- Ms. Bramel guided the Board through the risk classification process and elaborated on identifying and managing risks. The summary reveals few changes from 2014 to 2015. Thirty-nine risks are identified, of which 15% remain at a significant to high risk following mitigation. These require monitoring and review.

### **EB/2014/26. Work Plan 2015**

- Ms. Haga outlined the main priorities for each team in the coming year. On the technical side, the main job is to fully develop the genebank CRP and follow up on Crop Wild Relative agreements. Work on advancing Genesys and DivSeek will continue in 2015. The Partnerships and Communications team will build towards the 2016 pledging conference and expand Crop Trust media presence globally. Ms. Haga pointed to the need to improve relations with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Plant Treaty, and national genebanks.

### **EB/2014/27. Board Business**

#### **1. New Crop Trust Visual Identity**

- Mr. Lainoff outlined the process and results of creating a new corporate, visual identity and logo for the Crop Trust. He explained the benefits and versatility of the new logo and colors. The Board offered feedback on the shapes and words incorporated in the new logo. Mr. Moore reminded that the approved logo be registered under Article 8 of the Paris Convention.

#### **2. Executive Board Meetings in 2015**

- Ms. Haga recounted that 17-19 March 2015 was previously agreed upon for the next Board meeting. She recommends the International Potato Center (CIP) in Lima, Peru as location for the next meeting, pointing out that gathering at a genebank would serve as a good point of departure for many of the relevant issues on the Crop Trust's general

agenda. The Board will ideally arrange to stay in the area from 15-22 March to accomplish a broader regional outreach.

- Mr. Fust reminded the Board of the meeting in Bonn on 27-28 October 2015, which the next Donors' Council meeting will be arranged around.

**1. Crop Trust—Treaty Roadmap (Postponed)**

**2. Election of Additional Board Member**

- Ms. Haga announced that the Donors' Council appointed Mr. Alexander Müller, nominated by Germany, to the vacant fourth seat on the Executive Board for members appointed by the Donors Council. In addition, Donors' Council members recommended that the Executive Board appoint Mr. Knut Storberget, nominated by Norway, to the second vacant seat on the Executive Board for additional members appointed by the Board to ensure overall balance among its membership.

**3. Executive Director Appraisal**

- The appraisal of the work of the Executive Director was carried out in closed session attended by members of the Executive Board only.

Chair Walter Fust closed the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Board.