Global Crop Diversity Trust
10th meeting of the Donors' Council
Rome, October 21, 2013

The following members of the Donors' Council were present:

Dr. Barbara Kosak (Chairperson of the Donors' Council, Germany)
Dr. Michael Koch (Secretary of the Donors' Council, Crop Trust)
Dr. Thomas Meier (Germany)
Friedel Cramer (Germany)
Michael Gort (Canada)
Samuel Beever (Australia)
Elias Guia (Spain)
Santiago Menendez (Spain)
Christine Grieder (Switzerland)
Marius Herrmann (Switzerland)
Anke van den Hurk (International Seed Federation)
Mariette van Reisen (Netherlands)
Jostein Leiro (Norway)
Marcio Alonso B. Santos (Brazil)
Marieta Okenkova (Slovak Republic)
Felipe Steiner (Colombia)

The following invited observers attended:

Dr. Moshibudi Priscilla Rampedi (South Africa)
Antony Kalm (CGIAR Secretariat in the World Bank)
Jan Borring (ITPGRFA)
Afshaan Shafi (ITPGRFA)

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

Ambassador Walter Fust (Chairperson of the Executive Board)
Ambassador Tim Fischer

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The following staff members of the Crop Trust attended:

Dr. Paula Bramel	Deputy Executive Director
Anne Clyne	Director of Finance
Mary Ghira	Executive Office Assistant
Marie Haga	Executive Director
Brian Lainoff	Communications Assistant, Minute-taker

1. **Welcome, introduction, and adoption of the Agenda**
   Barbara Kosak welcomed participants to the Donors' Council meeting. The Agenda was rearranged to move original agenda item 7: "Donors' Council Appointment to the Executive Board" to the 3rd agenda item.

2. **Summary of activities in 2013, Looking forward to 2014: Challenges and opportunities**
   Marie Haga summarized the plan for the meeting, suggesting that the majority of the time be spent on the new Strategic Work Plan and Fundraising Strategy. Ms. Haga summarized the activities of the Crop Trust over the past year. She mentioned the

move to Bonn, Germany and the personnel changes of the Crop Trust Secretariat over the past year. Ms. Haga assured participants of the Donors' Council that the technical team has maintained its core capacity throughout the transition to Bonn. The beginning of 2013 was spent transitioning to Bonn and establishing administrative functions. Ms. Haga summarized donor meetings in Rome and Berlin in early 2013, explaining that donor countries should ideally decide from which location they wish to be contacted by the Crop Trust. Ms. Haga summarized recent meetings in Canada, Australia, the United States, and Brazil. She expressed gratitude to Norway for their recent contribution to the Endowment Fund as well as their support to the Crop Wild Relatives project. Gratitude was also expressed to the United States for their recent contribution to the Endowment Fund. Ms. Haga introduced Dr. Michael Koch, the new Director of Partnerships and Communications to the Donors' Council as he will be their main point of contact. Ms. Haga explained that the Crop Trust is placing strong emphasis on fundraising and communications.

With regards to the technical work, the Crop Wild Relatives project is well underway, with the gap-analysis being recently completed. The next step will be training and collection of crop wild relatives. Ms. Haga also mentioned the management of the International Collections under the CGIAR Research Program (CRP), including the Annual Genebanks Meeting in Ames, Iowa in September 2013.

Ms. Haga stressed that the Crop Trust is strengthening its relations with partners, especially the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources. She mentioned that there will be a joint Liaison Officer between the Treaty and the Crop Trust.

Ms. Haga mentioned that the Crop Trust is grateful of having received four nominations to its Executive Board at the Governing Body meeting of the International Treaty in Oman in September 2013. The governing body also adopted a simplified procedure for election of Board member of the Crop Trust.

The Governing Body will submit its nominations to the Crop Trust, who will send the nominations to the donors. If no objections are raised, then the Bureau of the International Treaty will accept the four new members of the Board. The new members, who have all accepted their nominations, are: Dr. Mauricio Lopes (Brazil), Dr. Abiza Ejeta (Ethiopia), Dr. Peter Crane (UK), and Dr. Palo Gautham (India).

Ambassador Fust underlined the importance of the Donors' Council for discussion the future directions of the Crop Trust.

3. Donors' Council Appointments to the Executive Board

Ms. Haga raised the need for the Donors' Council to appoint two members to the Executive Board.

Germany discussed the call for nominations and summarized the two nominations to the Board by Germany: Ambassador Fust (who so far had been nominated by the Executive Board) and Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc (from the Philippines, President of the Asia-Pacific Seed Association).

The Netherlands asked about the process for nominations to the Board. It was recommended to offer more lead time for Board nominations in the future.

The Donors' Council approved the two nominations, to be sent to the International Treaty for appointment.

4. Introduction to the Strategic Work Plan

Ms. Haga introduced the new Strategic Work Plan, guiding the work of the Crop Trust over the next decade.

Ms. Haga described the work of the Crop Trust in ex-situ conservation exclusively, this being complimentary to in-situ conservation done by other organizations. No changes are proposed to the mission of the Crop Trust. Ms. Haga summarized the history of the Crop Trust with relation to the Global Plan of Action of 1996 and the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food Agriculture in 2001, as creating a global system for the conservation and availability of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Ms. Haga mentioned the core activities of the Crop Trust in short term projects and long term activities to promote the global system.

Ms. Haga stressed that the management of the endowment is an essential element of the Crop Trust's work. She pointed to the core values of the Crop Trust with regards to information disclosure, risk management, anti-corruption, and anti-terrorism.

Ms. Haga expressed the challenges that agriculture will face over the next 10 years with regards to population growth and climate change. She described crop diversity as the basis for food security in the future to enable agriculture to adapt to climate change and the requirement of increased yields in view of these climatic changes.

Ms. Haga mentioned that the endowment needs a specific target both in terms of funding and coverage. She referred to Section 3, paragraph 6 of the Strategic Work Plan which describes in detail the focus of the endowment. Ms. Haga discussed the creation of crop communities. These will recommend which collections of crop diversity require long term grants; promote international standards for genebanks; identify gaps in crop coverage; and document the beneficial impact of conserving crop diversity.

The safety backup of the world's crop diversity is the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, in the permafrost of the Svalbard archipelago. Norway and the Crop Trust are funding the operating costs of the Vault.

International collections are at the core of conserving of crop diversity. The costing study has set the cost of operation of the international collections protected under Article 15 of the International Treaty at some $20 million in expenses per year, equivalent to $500 million USD for the endowment, It has also become clear that there are other, regional and national collections of crop diversity that must be conserved, to cover the top 25 crops of primary importance in least developed countries, listed in Annex 1 of the International Treaty, at a further cost of $10 million per year ($250 million in the endowment). An additional $100 million in the endowment would finance $4 million per year for other long-term costs related to the Crop Trust Secretariat, running costs of the Vault, information systems and other essential costs.

The Crop Trust will split the fundraising work into two phases. The first phase is the funding of the international collections under Article 15, by the end of 2015 through holding of an international pledging conference during 2015. The second phase will be the funding of the top 25 crops listed in Annex 1 plus other long-term costs, by the end 2018. Ms. Haga stressed that communications must underpin fundraising efforts.

The International Seed Federation mentioned the possibility of the Crop Trust working on crops not only important for food security, but also other crops like tomatoes that are important from a user perspective.

Norway asked what would happen if the Crop Trust were unable to fund, by 2016, all of the 11 genebanks as currently envisaged - would the CGIAR then continue to provide funding?

The Netherlands recommended a side event at FAO headquarters in the Spring of 2014 to raise more awareness of the Crop Trust. There was a question about the relationship of the Crop Trust with Bioversity International.

Brazil expressed gratitude for the visit of the Crop Trust to Brazil. He asked for the Crop Trust to highlight capacity building. Brazil stressed the importance of ex-situ conservation and highlighted the importance of sound relations between the Crop Trust and the Treaty. With regards for the Crop Communities, he recommended transparency in the creation of these communities. Donors could provide a roster of experts to be included in the crop communities.

Australia said that the Crop Trust has performed very well with regards to their mandate. The Crop Trust is a top 1 tier organization in Australia. Australia feels quite comfortable with the direction of the Strategic Work Plan. It was recommended that the Strategic Work Plan describe how the Crop Trust will outline the outcomes of a successful workplan.

Canada asked for clarification of the specific name of the work plan, and reiterated the importance of showing tangible results. The description of the needs and work was seen as fine, while communications on results need to be sharpened.

Germany thanked the Crop Trust for the work plan. The Crop Trust should ensure that the global system is cost effective, with stronger communication of results.

The representative from the CGIAR fund office asked about what would be the consequence if phase 2 of the work plan could not be funded.

Ms. Haga stated that the success of the Crop Trust is due its adherence to a well-defined mission. She reiterated that the Crop Trust will continue to stick to its technical mandate, without engaging in political matters. Ms. Haga mentioned that the Crop Trust will be looking into its role on pre-breeding for crop diversity. She mentioned that capacity building should be better highlighted in the Strategic Work Plan. Ms. Haga highlighted the relationship between the Crop Trust and Bioversity, explaining that Bioversity maintains one of the international collections under Article 15.

Ms. Haga agreed that the crop communities should largely start from scratch, accepting a broader group of experts, and be created in consultations with donors.

Ms. Haga agreed that results need to be better disseminated, inviting comments and recommendations with regards to how results are best identified.

Dr. Koch described the funding plan of the 11 CGIAR genebanks over time. He agreed that communicating strong results was essential, stressing the human element as part of success and impact stories, and fleshing out the financial and economic benefits as well. Germany commented that the added value of the Crop Trust is the global system dimension for managing genebanks.

Dr. Bramel summarized the technical work and described the requirement of international collections to have backups of all material in Svalbard. She explained that the crop communities would include users for their expertise. The monitoring and evaluation of the global system is being managed by the Crop Trust and will be released in due time. She highlighted that there are crops and unique material outside of Article 15 and Annex 1 that would be lost if phase 2 of the crop trust work plan is not accomplished.

5. Introduction to the Fundraising Strategy

Dr. Koch summarized the total contributions to the Crop Trust to date at roughly $350 million, $92 million of which is from the CGIAR fund council, and with $130 million raised for the endowment. He suggested that the Crop Trust is prioritizing un-earmarked endowment funding over tied project funding. Funding from finance or development aid budgets of donor countries could be best suited for the endowment of the Crop Trust, as it is typically core multilateral funding without earmarks.

Assuming a 4% investment rate on the endowment, the Crop Trust would need a total endowment of $850 million to achieve its strategic objections. This is an ambitious but achievable target, over two phases

Today there are fourteen sovereign countries giving money to the Crop Trust accounting for some 95% of total funding so far. The primary source of funding of phase 1 will continue to be governments, complemented by private contributions. Existing donor countries will be targeted, with recognition to be given to contributions already made to the endowment. New donor countries will be approached, including both developed countries and new development partners, in particular from G20 countries. Another target will be the European Commission, even though prospects for EC funding for the endowment are limited.

Selected foundations and non-profits will be targeted, as will be selected corporations where donor due diligence will be performed. Individuals may be an interesting idea, to provide funding for an entire crop. A list of high-net-worth individuals will also be approached, starting in Germany, complemented by individual donations through the website of the Crop Trust.

There is a large array of contribution types: unrestricted grant funding to the endowment, concessional loans, and matching donations. Burden sharing between donor countries is a real possibility that has been used successfully by many international organizations, so as to fairly fund a global public good. Looking at the

size and wealth of economies would allow deriving how much each country could contribute. Other indicators could be included such as agricultural imports and outputs as well as seed use. Dr. Koch briefly summarized the burden-sharing table found in the Fundraising Strategy.

Dr. Koch discussed the timeline, mentioning the pledging conference envisaged for 2015. Additional Donors' Council meetings may be scheduled in 2014 and 2015 in preparation for the conference. Dr. Koch also discussed the need to continue partnerships with the FAO, the International Treaty, the CGIAR, and other partners.

6. Discussion of the Fundraising Strategy

Canada asked whether non-earmarked, non-endowment funding would still be a part of the Crop Trust funding scheme. Ms. Haga and Dr. Koch confirmed that any funding as such would ease the strain on the endowment and would be graciously accepted. Canada stressed the need for results and success stories to underpin the fundraising effort.

Tim Fischer asked if there is a comparable scheme to the one proposed in the Fundraising Strategy. Mr. Koch discussed the Global Fund and IFAD as two organizations that have used burden-sharing approaches to help their replenishment efforts.

Switzerland reiterated the need for having strong success stories and results available for policy makers to encourage governments to support the Crop Trust.

The Slovak Republic recommended that during donor visits there be media coverage. She also offered support for setting up a regional meeting on the Crop Trust with donors from Eastern Europe.

Brazil recommended considering some joint projects joint between the Crop Trust and the Treaty. Fundraising should include also other donor types such as regional and global institutions, e.g. the World Bank and IFAD. Also the UN Desertification Commission in Bonn should be approached for a partnership with the Crop Trust.

Canada supported the burden-sharing approach and recommended that the time between the first phase and second phase be increased, to gain sufficient experience after phase 1. As far as for VIPs to publicly support the work of the Crop Trust, one should look at the Board.

Norway agrees that funding for the endowment should take precedence over funding of projects. The target for the endowment fund was ambitious yet achievable. Concessional loans from donors in lieu of donor grants should be taken forward with caution.

Canada discussed the CGIAR's three window funding scheme and suggested that the Crop Trust have conversations with the CGIAR. Strong visibility within the donor countries through communications is essential.

Colombia discussed possible regional funding events in Latin America. It was also recommended to use crowd sourcing such as through Kickstarter to run focused campaigns.

The International Seed Federation noted that having phases of funding was a good idea. It was recommended that the phases split the international collections and the national collections each in the two phases.

Spain suggested that the European Commission be included for the burden-sharing approach.

Dr. Koch said that the total funding required from donor governments will be somewhat lower than shown in the burden-sharing table, as contributions from foundations and the private sector will be actively sought as well.

Ms. Haga mentioned that the Crop Trust is an essential funding element of the International Treaty, so when a donor funds the Crop Trust, it also funds the Treaty. Ms. Haga also expressed readiness to work with the Treaty to argue for resources for both the Crop Trust and the Treaty. Ms. Haga asked the Donors' Council for help to reach out to each donors' government. She suggested that it is important for the Crop Trust to be brought to the political level, where the main funding decisions are taken.

Dr. Kosak summarized that the challenge will be to navigate the different funding sources and types over time to ensure that tasks will be financed. There will be short-term, medium term and long-term money, provided for grants, projects, programs, and the income from the endowment fund. In order to achieve these goals raising awareness for the work and the funding of the Crop Trust is of high importance. International events like the Green Week and the G-20 meetings could be very helpful.

Anne Clyne described the previous Canadian funding of the Crop Trust as being unrestricted, used for emergency funding and operational costs.

Germany suggested that the full endowment target be treated as an aspirational goal. Switzerland expressed support for the total endowment target and suggested that it was not that large of an endowment.

7. EB Papers: Finance and Investment Report

Anne Clyne summarized the finance and investment report. She explained the investment portfolio, which had an average annual return of 4.7% since the implementation of the endowment. The finance and investment committee will meet in the evening to discuss the finance and investment strategy.

The budget for 2014 includes two more long-term grants. The withdraw of investment income from the endowment is currently at 3.5%bp.a., lower than the maximum of 4% as the Crop Trust is aware of the benefit of not withdrawing the full allotment

8. Donors' Council Report to the Executive Board

Nominations to the Executive Board

The Donors' Council accepted nominations to the Executive Board of Amb. Walter Fust and Dr. Ann Soyoc, which will be shared with the Treaty Secretariat.
The Donors' Council welcomes the Board Members appointed by the Treaty to the Crop Trust Executive Board. Simplified procedures for nominations to the EB will be circulated to the members of the Donors' Council.

Strategic Work Plan
General support was given to the direction of the strategic work plan, while recognizing the importance of the user perspective. The Donors' Council stressed the importance of communicating understandable results and benefits. The Donors' Council welcomes the cooperative approach with the Treaty and other relevant organizations.

Fundraising Strategy
The Donors' Council expressed general support to the direction outlined in the Fundraising Strategy, including prioritizing endowment over projects and programs. The Donors' council welcomes integrating regional and global forums into fundraising and communication outreach.

9. Any Other business

Norway recommended that the Crop Trust circulate its Annual Report to the Donors' Council in advance of council meetings, and that the Crop Trust include the Annual Report as an agenda for Donors' Council meetings.

Germany recommended that the Annual Report to be sent to the Secretary of the International Treaty and circulated to the members of the International Treaty.

Dr. Koch expressed that communication between the Crop Trust and members of the Donors' Council will become more regular, including through a monthly email, and welcomed discussion and comments on those emails. Other possibilities include bi-monthly telephone conferences and a website for communication with the Donors' Council.

The date of the next Donors' Council is expected to be October 24, 2014 in Rome.

Ambassador Fust welcomed the Donors' Council to visit the Crop Trust website to view Marie's Corner for organizational updates.

Dr. Kosak thanked the Donors' Council for a productive discussion and closed the meeting.