



**Global Crop Diversity Trust
Executive Board Meeting (EB/2020/4)
22 December 2020, by email correspondence**

Summary Report

Participating Members of the Executive Board

Peter Crane (Chair)
Hanne Blåfjelldal
Mercedes Aráoz Fernandez
Jean-Christophe Gouache
Masa Iwanaga
Alexander Müller
Marcio de Miranda Santos
Emmy Bartz Simmons
Knut Storberget
Eliane Ubalijoro
Stefan Schmitz (Executive Director of the Crop Trust)

The status of decisions and actions arising from **EB/2020/4** is provided in the table below:

No.	Decisions
1	Executive Board Members approved the proposal to withdraw 4% from the USD and EUR endowment funds in 2020 to cover any potential shortfall in 2021 with unspent funds to be included in unrestricted reserves in 2020.

Introduction

- The purpose of this email correspondence was to provide the Executive Board members with an overview of the status of the funding of the Genebank Platform for 2020 and 2021 and to seek members' approval, on a no-objection basis by 22 December 2020, to withdraw the full 4% from the Crop Trust USD and EUR endowment funds in 2020 with any unspent funds to be included in unrestricted reserves.
- Participating in the written procedure were the voting members of the Executive Board listed above.

EB/2020/4-1

Funding the Genebank Platform 2020

- The Executive Board members noted the circulated paper which provided an update on the Genebank Platform commitment of USD 13 million for 2020.
- The Revised Budget 2020 was approved by the Executive Board at its meeting on 5 November 2020 on the basis that there would be donor support for the Genebank Platform of USD 5m (European Commission USD 1m + GIZ USD 4m) by end



December 2020 which, along with a 4% withdrawal from the USD endowment fund, would meet the Crop Trust's commitment to the Genebank Platform for 2020.

- Since the revised budget was approved, members were informed that GIZ has transferred to the CGIAR USD 4.2m for the Genebank Platform and the Crop Trust has met its commitment. In addition, it is expected that there will be lower expenditure in operations and in the Genebank Platform than previously budgeted for, due to reduced activity and additional savings in 2020. Therefore, it is most likely that less than 4% of the endowment fund will be required to meet our commitments in 2020.

EB/2020/4-2

Funding the Genebank Platform 2021

- The Crop Trust's commitment to the Genebank Platform in 2021 increases from USD 13m in 2020 to USD 15m in the final year of the program. Taking 4% from both the USD and EUR endowment funds contributes USD 12m towards this commitment. The Crop Trust is in discussions with both the European Commission and GIZ to continue their grant funding next year. In the event that this donor support is not committed, there will be a funding gap of approx. USD 4.5m to cover the Genebank Platform (USD 3m) and Crop Trust operational expenditure (USD 1.5m).
- To date the Crop Trust has historically kept well below the 4% withdrawal limit, however, in order to meet the Genebank commitment for 2019, 4% was withdrawn in full that year from both the USD and EUR endowment funds. While it is most likely that less than 4% will be required in 2020, management proposes withdrawing the full 4%, from both the USD and EUR endowment funds, in order to set aside any remaining balance for a potential funding gap in 2021. Therefore, any unused funds from 2020 will be included in the Crop Trust's unrestricted reserves, which has a current balance of USD 5m.
- Members noted that this is an accounting exercise only as the funds will not be physically withdrawn from the endowment fund but will continue to be invested and only withdrawn if absolutely necessary. This proposal to maximize the full withdrawal in 2020 ensures that the Crop Trust will be able to meet its commitments in 2021 and will not have to breach its withdrawal policy of 4%.
- The Executive members approved the proposal, on a no-objection basis, to withdraw 4% from the USD and EUR endowment funds in 2020 to cover any potential shortfall in 2021 with unspent funds to be included in unrestricted reserves in 2020. This proposal was also endorsed, by written procedure on 22 December 2020, by the Finance & Investment Committee.
 1. Decision: Executive Board Members approved the proposal to withdraw 4% from the USD and EUR endowment funds in 2020 to cover any potential shortfall in 2021 with unspent funds to be included in unrestricted reserves in 2020.