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منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
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of
the
United
Nations

Organisation
des
Nations
Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et
l'agriculture

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

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Item 15 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Madrid, Spain, 12-16 June 2006

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE GLOBAL CROP
DIVERSITY TRUST**

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Global Crop Diversity Trust (“the Trust”) was officially established in 2004 as a fund operating under international law.¹ Both the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have welcomed the creation of the Trust.
2. The Trust will operate within the framework of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and under the overall policy guidance of the Treaty’s Governing Body on all matters within the purview of the Treaty. In furtherance of Article 5 of the Treaty, as well as the FAO Global Plan of Action, the Trust’s goal is to support the efficient and effective *ex situ* conservation of crop diversity over the long term. At its centre is an endowment fund that will, in the words of the FAO Commission, “provide, in perpetuity, a flow of funds for *ex situ* conservation by national and international institutions, and for relevant capacity building.”²
3. While the Trust’s mandate, like that of the Treaty, covers all plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, it will give priority to the genetic resources of crops that are included in Annex 1 or referred to in Article 15 of the Treaty. Specific strategies, promoted by the Trust, for the efficient and effective conservation of the individual gene pools of these crops are currently under development. The Trust anticipates that strategies for 15 or more crops, as well as nine regional strategies, will be completed by the end of 2006.³ These strategies will identify the key genetic resources that collectively comprise the gene pool of each crop, and will propose methods for the management of the collections, individually and collectively, through partnerships and the sharing of responsibilities. The strategies will identify those collections most in need of support of the Trust.
4. The Trust has, on an interim basis, established basic principles that must be met in order for a collection to be eligible for support, and has developed more specific criteria to help assess individual situations. In addition, the Trust’s interim board, the Interim Panel of Eminent Experts (see below) has recently *welcomed, endorsed and decided* to keep under permanent review a paper on “The Role of the Global Crop Diversity Trust in Helping Ensure the Long-Term Conservation and Availability of PGRFA” as an important and clear statement of the Trust’s role and *noted* that it would provide a valuable framework to guide the operations and funding decisions of the Trust. This paper, along with the aforementioned principles and criteria for Trust funding can be found on the Trust’s website, www.croptrust.org. As crop and regional strategies are finalized, they too will be posted on the website.

II. FINANCES AND FUNDING

5. As of 8 May 2006, approximately \$60.5 million had been pledged to the Trust. The Trust has received \$42.2 million. Some pledges involve multi-year contributions. The endowment fund’s valuation stands at \$39.3 million. This final figure will fluctuate, of course, as funds are

¹ To date, twenty-two countries have approved/ratified the Trust’s Establishment Agreement, including: Egypt, Cape Verde, Jordan, Togo, Morocco, Syria, Samoa, Ethiopia, Tonga, Peru, Mali, Ecuador, Colombia, Sweden, Mauritius, Serbia and Montenegro, Cameroon, Cambodia, Pakistan, Romania, Uganda and Kenya. The Establishment Agreement remains open for accession. See www.croptrust.org for more information.

² Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ninth Regular Session, Rome, 14-18 October 2002.

³ The regions are: South, Southeast and East Asia, Pacific, Central Asia and Caucasus, West Asia and North Africa, Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, West and Central Africa, Americas, Europe. The crops include: coconut, banana, potato, rice, wheat, rye, triticale, chick pea, lentil, faba bean, grass pea, barley, oats, maize, sorghum, strawberry. All of these crops are included in Annex I of the International Treaty.

received, as investment income is withdrawn for grants and operating expenses, and as investment valuations change.

6. Thirteen countries – both developed and developing – have pledged/provided funding to the Trust. They are: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States.

7. Six foundations have contributed funds. They are: Moore Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Syngenta Foundation, United Nations Foundation, and the Gatsby Charitable Foundation. Two corporations have provided funding. They are Dupont/Pioneer Hi-Bred and Syngenta. And one farmers' organization, the Grains Research and Development Corporation of Australia, has made a substantial contribution. In addition, individuals have made a number of modest donations. By far the largest contributors to date have been governments. A complete listing of pledges and contributions is found in the *Appendix* to this document.

8. The Trust, by policy, is allowed to withdraw 4.5% of the value of its endowment fund (calculated as the average value over six quarters) per annum for grant-making and operations. The financial assumption underlying this is that the Trust, *over time*, will be able to generate returns of 4.5% over inflation, enabling it to make grants and cover its own administrative expenses, essentially forever, without depleting the actual principle of the fund.

9. Funds contributed to the Trust's endowment are managed professionally and are currently invested with HSBC. During the last 12 months, the return on investment for the Trust's endowment was in excess of 16%.

10. To date, the Trust has made seven grants related to emergency situations and capacity building. They are:

- (1) Development of an accession-level information resource, linking information from IRRI and Malaysia;
- (2) Urgent regeneration of coconut germplasm in Côte d'Ivoire;
- (3) Securing apple collections in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan;
- (4) Increasing and improving seed drying capacity in southern Africa;
- (5) Urgent regeneration of food legume and forage material maintained at the Vavilov Institute in Russia;
- (6) Urgent support to long-term storage of the genebank in Ecuador; and
- (7) Improvement of genebank facilities in the Central Asia and Caucasus region.

11. Based on the regional and crop strategies mentioned above, the Trust expects to make its first grants beginning this year for the long-term conservation of specific and prioritized collections of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. As the Trust's endowment grows, its capacity to ensure the long-term conservation of the genepool of the different crops will increase. It has been estimated that a fund of \$260 million will be required to accomplish this task fully and permanently.

III. GOVERNANCE

12. The Trust is currently governed by an interim board, the Interim Panel of Eminent Experts, which was originally appointed by the Directors General of FAO and IPGRI. The FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has requested the Panel to continue

to serve until an Executive Board is established.⁴ The Executive Board, provided for in the Trust's Constitution, will be established following approval of the Relationship Agreement between the Trust and the Governing Body of the International Treaty and the identification of four members of the Executive Board by the Governing Body. Current members of the Trust's interim board are: Fernando Gerbasi (Venezuela) who serves as chair, as well as Andrew Bennett (UK), Lukas Brader (Netherlands), Lewis Coleman (USA) Tewolde Gebre Egziabher (Ethiopia), Cary Fowler (USA) *ex officio*, Walter Fust (Switzerland), Chebet Maikut (Uganda), Mohammad Roozitalab (Iran), Setijati Sastrapradja (Indonesia), and Ismail Serageldin (Egypt).

13. The Panel has met eight times since it was appointed.

14. The Trust has a small secretariat, headed by an Executive Secretary, Prof. Cary Fowler, who was appointed in August 2005. The Trust has offices both at FAO and at IPGRI in Rome, Italy, pending a decision on a permanent headquarters location for the Trust by the Trust's Executive Board.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

15. The Trust has a new website, www.croptrust.org, at which one can find all official documents pertaining to the mission, governance, finances and programme of the Trust. In addition, the website contains articles and other information about genetic resources and the crops listed in Annex I of the Treaty.

16. "Crop Diversity Topics," is published 8-10 times a years. Each issue focuses on a different topic relevant to crop diversity and provides news as well about the Trust and its activities. The first issue was entitled "The Genetics of Water," and the second, "Orphan Crops." One can sign up for this free publication through the Trust's website.

⁴ CGRFA-10 /04/REP, *Report of the Tenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, Rome, Italy, 8-12 November 2004. para. 20.

APPENDIX

GLOBAL CROP DIVERSITY TRUST

PLEDGES

DONOR	TOTAL PLEDGES AS AT APRIL 30, 2006			PERIOD OF PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID 30-Apr-06 USD
	AMOUNT PLEGDED	USD EQUIVALENT*			
Countries					
Australia	AUD	16,500,000	11,832,514		7,774,429
Brazil	USD	30,000	30,000	2002	30,000
Canada	CAD	10,000,000	8,463,076	2003-2012	2,413,757
Colombia	USD	35,802	35,802	2002	35,802
Egypt	USD	166,657	166,657		25,000
Ethiopia	USD	50,000	50,000		-
India	USD	50,000	50,000		50,000
Italy	USD	300,000	300,000	2005	300,000
Norway	NOK	38,000,000	5,900,471	2004	5,900,471
Norway	USD	198,916	198,916	2006-2007	106,192
New Zealand	USD	50,000	50,000	2005	50,000
Sweden	SEK	50,000,000	7,264,700	2005	7,264,700
Switzerland	USD	10,325,000	10,325,000	2001-2007	7,687,293
Switzerland	CHF	150,000	118,478	2004-2005	118,478
United States	USD	5,500,000	5,500,000	2001-2005	5,500,000
Foundations					
Moore Foundation	USD	200,000	200,000	2006-2007	-
Rockefeller Foundation	USD	305,000	305,000	2003	253,000
Syngenta Foundation	USD	250,000	250,000	2003-2005	200,000
United Nations Foundation	USD	775,000	775,000	2003-2006	500,000
Gatsby Charitable Foundation	GBP	605,000	1,032,414	2003-2005	640,905
Corporations					
Dupont/Pioneer Hi-bred	USD	1,000,000	1,000,000	2004-2007	500,000
Grains Research & Development Corporation	USD	5,000,000	5,000,000	2004-2009	1,150,350
Syngenta AG	USD	1,000,000	1,000,000	2004	1,000,000
Other					
World Bank - CGIAR	USD	200,000	200,000	2002	200,000
Future Harvest Centres	USD	210,000	210,000	2001-2002	210,000
Systemwide Genetic Resources Programme	USD	255,000	255,000	2001-2002	255,000
Sundry	USD	785	785		785
Total			\$60,513,813		\$42,166,161

* Where amounts have not yet been received the rate of exchange as at January 3, 2006 has been applied.