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Food and Agriculture  
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Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 2.6 of the Provisional Agenda

### Fifteenth Regular Session

Rome, 19 – 23 January 2015

## GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Fourteenth Regular Session, reaffirmed the importance of genetic resources for food and agriculture for coping with climate change and the need for raising awareness of their potential roles. The Commission adopted a Programme of Work on Climate Change and Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Programme of Work)<sup>1</sup>, for the period of 2013 to 2017, and requested its Secretary, subject to the availability of funding, to initiate the implementation. The Commission also requested FAO to provide information on the human and financial resources needed to implement the Programme of Work.<sup>2</sup>

2. This document provides information on the implementation of the Programme of Work, with a focus on guidelines for the integration of genetic diversity considerations into climate change adaptation planning. It also proposes a revision to the Programme of Work and outlines the human and financial resources needed for its implementation.

## II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

### Biennium 2013/2014

3. The Programme of Work contains several activities in the areas of *Tools and technologies* and *Policies and strategies*.

4. **Activities towards the preparation of the Guidelines.** As requested by the Commission, the Commission's Intergovernmental Technical Working Groups (Working Groups) considered, during the intersessional period, draft guidelines prepared by the Secretariat to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning. The draft guidelines take into account, *inter alia*, information obtained through other activities of the Programme of Work, such as a global survey on *Lessons learned about the ways and means to conserve and use genetic diversity to build resilience to climate change in food and agriculture systems*<sup>3</sup>, conducted in 2013, and a workshop organized by FAO in April 2014, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy.

5. The Working Groups provided comments and, in particular, recommended that the guidelines be streamlined and focused on relevant activities, and that related technical and awareness-raising materials should be developed and highlight the crucial role of genetic resources for food and agriculture in climate change adaptation and for food security. The Working Groups recommended that comments provided during their sessions<sup>4</sup> be incorporated into a revised version, for review and endorsement by the Commission. The revised version of the draft guidelines is contained in the document, *Draft guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning (Revised version)*.<sup>5</sup> An overview of the draft guidelines is given in *Appendix I* to this document.

6. **Technical and awareness-raising material.** In line with the Programme of Work, FAO developed technical and awareness-raising material. The publication, *Coping with climate change - The roles of genetic resources for food and agriculture* (forthcoming), provides an overview of the complex interactions between genetic resources and climate change. A compilation of information on hotspots on biodiversity for food and agriculture threatened by climate change will be published as Background Study Paper in the near future. The Commission website features the issue of climate change on a separate page.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix D*.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report paragraphs 34-37.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Inf.16.

<sup>4</sup> See CGRFA-15/15/9; CGRFA-15/15/12; CGRFA-15/15/14.

<sup>5</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Inf.15.

<sup>6</sup> [www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cross-sectorial/climate-change](http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cross-sectorial/climate-change)

7. **Submissions and contributions to side events.** The Secretary provided inputs to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stressing the important role of genetic resources in coping with climate change. Relevant materials on genetic resources and climate change for countries embarking on the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was also shared with the UN Climate Change Secretariat and will be integrated in the NAP Central<sup>7</sup>, an information system that will serve as information platform for supporting the NAP process.

### Biennium 2015/2016

8. For the period of 2015 to 2016, the Programme of Work focusses on awareness-raising activities, such as side events and submissions to the UNFCCC.<sup>8</sup>

9. The results of the survey underline the urgent need for raising awareness among policy makers and relevant stakeholders of the importance of genetic resources to cope with climate change. Stakeholders and policy makers need to be made aware of the role of the Commission's Global Plans of Action for the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture. Multi-disciplinary dialogues and capacity development for genetic resources experts to effectively contribute to national climate change planning may help to integrate genetic diversity considerations in climate change adaptation planning.

10. The draft revised Programme of Work, given in *Appendix II* to this document, foresees therefore additional awareness-raising activities, such as: the preparation of specific materials, policy briefs and factsheets; the publication and the wide distribution of the draft guidelines once they have been endorsed by the Commission; and the organization of regional workshops focusing on the integration of GRFA into adaptation planning.

### III. HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

11. Regular programme as well as extra-budgetary resources made available by the Governments of Germany, Norway and Sweden have mainly been used for the implementation of the Programme of Work. Support in the implementation of the Programme of Work was provided by staff funded from extra-budgetary resources. The implementation of the Programme of Work will continue to rely on extra-budgetary resources.

12. Extra-budgetary resources are required to carry out: side events foreseen for 2015/2016 (USD 5,000 to 20,000 per side event); production and translation of technical and awareness-raising material, such as policy briefs and factsheets (USD 80,000); translation of the draft guidelines (USD 5,000 per language); and regional workshops (USD 80,000 – 100,000 per region).

### IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

13. The Commission may wish to:

- (a) Review and revise, as necessary, the draft guidelines contained in the document, *Draft Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning (Revised version)*<sup>9</sup>;
- (b) Invite the Director-General of FAO to bring the agreed *Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*, to the attention of the Conference to approve them, at its forthcoming session;
- (c) Invite the Secretary of the Commission to officially transmit the *Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*, as adopted by the Conference, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other relevant international, instruments and bodies;

<sup>7</sup> <http://unfccc.int/nap/>

<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, *Appendix D*.

<sup>9</sup> CGRFA-15/15/Inf.15.

- (d) Review and revise, as necessary, the proposed draft revised Programme of Work and request its Secretary to implement it; and
- (e) Invite its Members to implement the *Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*.

## APPENDIX I

### OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT GUIDELINES TO SUPPORT THE INTEGRATION OF GENETIC DIVERSITY INTO NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING (REVISED VERSION)

This Appendix presents a synthetic overview of the objectives, elements and steps of the *Draft guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning (Revised version)*. The full version is contained in document CGRFA-15/15/Inf.15.

#### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the guidelines are:

- i. To promote the use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) in climate change adaptation and support their integration into national climate change adaptation planning;
- ii. To support the genetic resources experts and those involved in climate change adaptation to identify and address the challenges and opportunities of GRFA in adaptation; and
- iii. To promote the involvement of genetic resources stakeholders in the national climate change adaptation planning process.

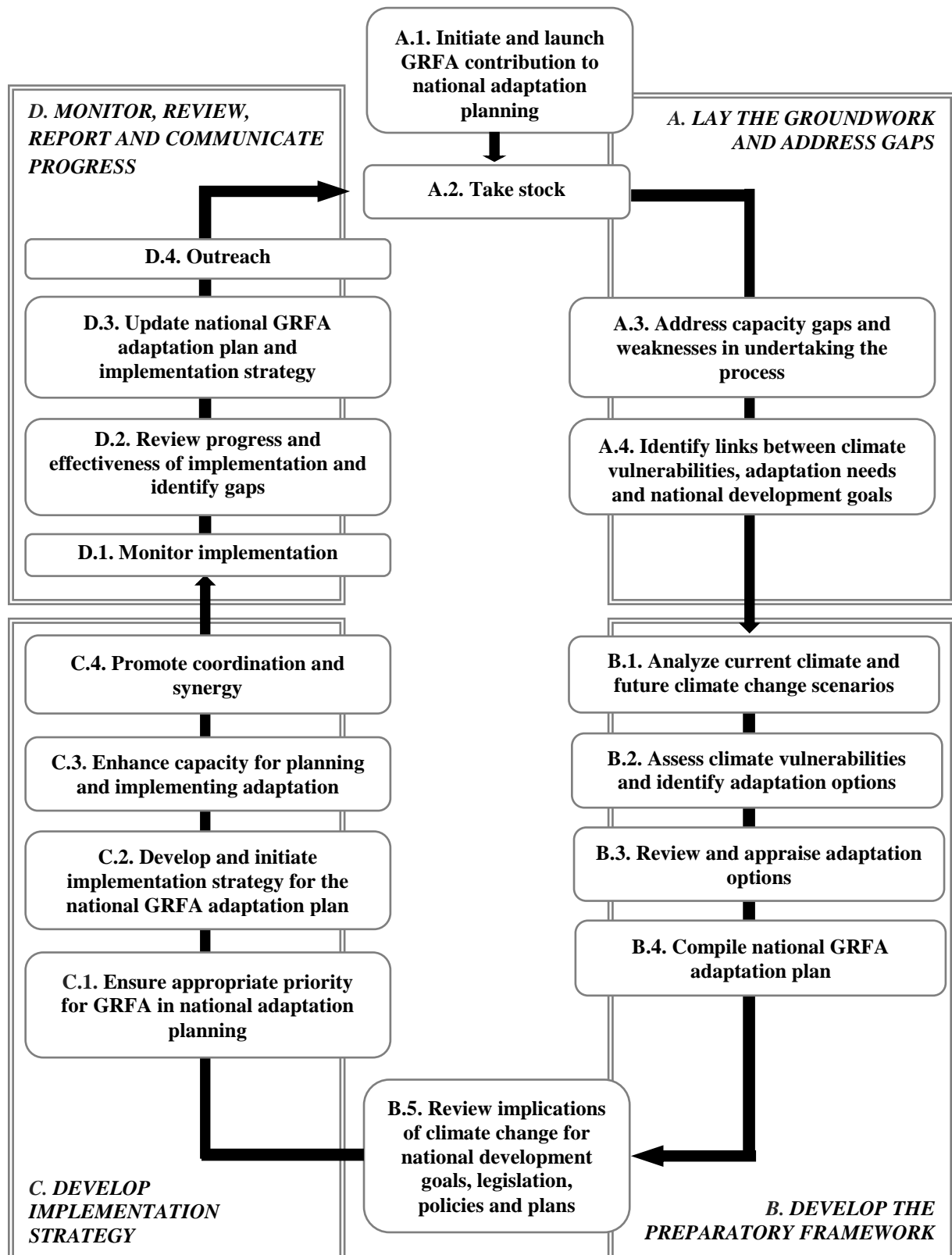
#### ELEMENTS AND STEPS

To facilitate direct linkages with the National Adaptation Plan process, the guidelines follow the structure and approach of the NAP technical guidelines<sup>10</sup>. The process involves four main elements in each of which a number of steps are proposed. The elements and steps should be seen as part of a connected iterative process where successes or failures are monitored and the results fed back into the process, as illustrated in Figure 1.

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<sup>10</sup> UNFCCC 2012. NAP technical guidelines. Available at [http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun\\_adaptation\\_framework/national\\_adaptation\\_plans/application/pdf/naptechguidelines\\_eng\\_low\\_res.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/national_adaptation_plans/application/pdf/naptechguidelines_eng_low_res.pdf)

Figure 1. Elements and steps for integrating genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) into national adaptation planning



## ***ELEMENT A. LAY THE GROUNDWORK AND ADDRESS GAPS***

### **A.1. Initiate and launch GRFA contribution to national adaptation planning**

Establish the institutional arrangements needed to strengthen the role of GRFA in national adaptation planning. Strengthen the collaboration between, *inter alia*, animal, aquatic, forest and plant genetic resources sectors, identify entry points for GRFA in climate change adaptation planning and engage with climate change focal points and policy makers.

### **A.2. Take stock**

Conduct a stock-taking including an analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the current state of conservation and use of GRFA in the context of climate change adaptation.

### **A.3. Address capacity gaps and weaknesses in undertaking the process**

Use the SWOT analysis to identify gaps in country capacity to undertake the work needed to support the conservation and use of GRFA in the context of climate change adaptation.

### **A.4. Identify links between climate vulnerabilities, adaptation needs and national development goals**

Ensure that GRFA conservation and use concerns identified during the stock taking process take adequate account of national development goals in relevant areas, such as food security, nutrition and health, rural development and environmental management.

## ***ELEMENT B. DEVELOP THE PREPARATORY FRAMEWORK***

### **B.1. Analyze current climate and future climate change scenarios**

Review available information on climate change scenarios with respect to the expected impact on GRFA taking account of concerns of different genetic resources sectors and socio-economic implications for rural communities.

### **B.2. Assess climate vulnerabilities and identify adaptation options**

Decide on the scope of the vulnerability and risk assessments and undertake them. Identify the expected impacts of non climate change related changes and the expected added impact of climate change on GRFA; identify and assess adaptation options and establish processes for monitoring and managing GRFA related risks.

### **B.3. Review and appraise adaptation options**

Identify GRFA related adaptation options with respect to both conservation and use of GRFA. Review options against a set of agreed criteria and take account of ongoing or proposed adaptation plans in relevant areas (e.g. food production) that will require enhanced GRFA use.

### **B.4. Compile national GRFA adaptation plan**

Develop national GRFA adaptation plan using a participatory iterative approach linked to overall national adaptation planning. Identify actions needed to support both conservation and use of GRFA, taking account of existing Global Plans of Action for genetic resources or other GRFA related plans and of the opportunities for coordinated actions across GRFA sectors.

### **B.5. Review implications of climate change for national development goals, legislation, policies and plans**

Review national development goals, legislation and policies; identify synergies, possible conflicts or trade-offs between the national GRFA adaptation plan and other aspects of national adaptation planning.

### ***ELEMENT C. DEVELOP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY***

#### **C.1. Ensure appropriate priority for GRFA in national adaptation planning**

Describe the contribution that GRFA can make to national priorities and engage with policy makers at local and national levels to ensure appropriate priority is given to GRFA.

#### **C.2. Develop and initiate implementation strategy for the national GRFA adaptation plan**

Formulate the key elements of the implementation strategy including coordination mechanisms, prioritization criteria, pathways to achieving major outputs and outcomes, implementation procedures, stakeholder engagement, resource mobilization and mechanisms to support congruence with the NAP, Global Plans of Actions for genetic resources and other strategic planning processes.

#### **C.3. Enhance capacity for planning and implementing adaptation**

Strengthen capacity to support implementation using a multi-faceted capacity development programme tailored to the needs of different interest groups (including farmers, fisherfolk, forest dwellers, policy makers, public administrators, and extension workers).

#### **C.4. Promote coordination and synergy**

Develop or strengthen links to appropriate regional and international processes and the activities that support them. Ensure effective links with programmes of relevant ministries, agencies and organizations including those involved in agriculture and food production, environmental protection, health, energy use and water management.

### ***ELEMENT D. MONITOR, REVIEW, REPORT AND COMMUNICATE PROGRESS***

#### **D.1. Monitor implementation**

Establish monitoring procedures and indicators and assess progress on implementing the guidelines and in achieving adaptation plan outputs and outcomes.

#### **D.2. Review progress and effectiveness of implementation and identify gaps**

Develop identified review process and use results of monitoring together with available new information on climate change and adaptation to review the progress and effectiveness in implementing the guidelines and national GRFA adaptation plan and to identify gaps and weakness in implementation.

#### **D.3. Update national GRFA adaptation plan and implementation strategy**

Update the national GRFA adaptation plan and the implementation strategy based on the results of monitoring and review, new information and the result of adaptation actions already implemented.

#### **D.4. Outreach**

Communicate results of implementing guidelines and national GRFA adaptation plan to policy makers, stakeholders and to wider public and provide inputs to relevant international processes.



## APPENDIX II

## DRAFT REVISED PROGRAMME OF WORK

A draft revised Programme of Work for the years 2015 and 2016 is presented below, whereby activities in bold correspond to additions to the existing Programme of Work:

## 2015

<u>Tools and technologies</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparation, translation, publishing and distribution of technical and awareness-raising material (e.g. <i>Guidelines to support the integration of genetic diversity into national climate change adaptation planning; Coping with climate change - The roles of genetic resources for food and agriculture; further develop the Commission's web site on climate change</i>)</b></li> <li>• <b>Organization of regional workshops on the integration of GRFA into adaptation planning</b></li> </ul>
<u>Strategies and policies</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mainstreaming and awareness-raising activities</b></li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a side event, or delivering a submission, at UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation, <b>COP 21 or other relevant events</b></li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a side event at, or providing documentation to, CBD SBSTTA 19 <b>or other relevant events</b></li> </ul>

## 2016

<u>Tools and technologies</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Preparation, translation, publishing and distribution of technical and awareness-raising material</b></li> </ul>
<u>Strategies and policies</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mainstreaming and awareness-raising activities</b></li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a side event or submission at UNFCCC COP 22 <b>or other relevant events</b></li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a side event or document at CBD SBSTTA 20.</li> <li>• Explore the possibility of a side event at CBD COP 13.</li> </ul>