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# COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Item 2.1 of the Provisional Agenda

### Fifteenth Regular Session

Rome, 19 – 23 January 2015

## STATUS OF PREPARATION OF *THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

1. In adopting its Multi-Year Programme of Work at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (the Commission) agreed to the preparation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* (the Report).<sup>1</sup> At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to prepare the Report, for consideration at its Sixteenth Regular Session.<sup>2</sup> The Commission agreed on the process to prepare the Report and endorsed its structure and content.<sup>3</sup>

2. This document provides information on progress made in the preparation of the Report since the last Session of the Commission, describes the next steps to be taken and the human and financial resources required to finalize the Report for the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session.

## II. THE PREPARATORY PROCESS

3. At its last session, the Commission stressed that the process for preparing the Report should be based on information from Country Reports, thematic studies, reports from international organizations and inputs from other relevant stakeholders, and should take full advantage of existing information sources, including centres of excellence from developing countries. It stressed that the Report should focus on the interactions between sectors and on cross-sectoral matters, taking full advantage of existing information sources, including sectoral assessments.<sup>4</sup> This section highlights activities undertaken in light of the preparatory process.

### Preparation of Country Reports

#### *Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports*

4. Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports contributing to *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*<sup>5</sup> (the Guidelines) have been developed following an extensive consultation process with experts from within and outside FAO, and from all sectors relevant to the scope of the Report. During these consultations, a classification of production systems was developed and used in the Guidelines as a basis for assembling information across sectors and on associated biodiversity, which comprises micro-organisms, invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, birds, plants and mammals that are found in and around production systems and often provide important ecosystem services supporting food and agricultural production. Emphasis has also been placed on the importance of the participation of stakeholders and experts across sectors (including those stakeholders with experiential knowledge, such as farmers, pastoralists, forest dwellers and fisher folk) to ensure a collaborative process for the preparation of the Country Report.

5. As recognized by the Commission, information is expected to be preliminary and incomplete in a number of areas.<sup>6</sup> To ensure that such information gaps are identified, the Guidelines have been formulated to stress the importance of assessing and highlighting them in the Country Report. Wherever relevant, invitations to report on lessons learned and success stories on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture were included in the Guidelines.

6. In response to the Commission's request to give priority to key supplementary information not available in existing sources,<sup>7</sup> the Guidelines make a distinction between information that can be found in sectoral assessments and other information. The Guidelines also make a distinction between

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<sup>1</sup> CGRFA-11/07/Report, *Appendix E*.

<sup>2</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

<sup>3</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 16.

<sup>4</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/guidelines/en/>

<sup>6</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 15.

<sup>7</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

information countries may wish to provide in support of their own strategic planning and information needed for the preparation of the (global) Report.

7. The internalization of the ecosystem approach is integrated in *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* process and is reflected in the questionnaire.<sup>8</sup> Countries have been encouraged to provide, to the extent possible, information from an ecosystem perspective, including on the provision of supporting (e.g. soil formation and nutrient cycling) and regulating (e.g. pollination and pest and disease control) ecosystem services, and on the implementation of an ecosystem approach.

8. The Guidelines were published on the website of the Commission<sup>9</sup> on 30 November 2013 and are available in the six official languages of FAO. The Guidelines were made available as read-only as well as dynamic fill-in versions. Countries have been encouraged to use the latter which are designed to help them organizing information according to local production systems.

#### *Nomination of National Focal Points*

9. By Circular State Letter C/NRD-4 of 10 June 2013, FAO invited countries to officially nominate a National Focal Point (NFP) by 30 November 2013 to lead the preparation of their Country Report.<sup>10</sup> As of 1 November 2014, official nominations from 65 countries have been received. *Appendix I* lists countries that have nominated a NFP. More detailed information on NFPs may be obtained from the Commission's website.<sup>11</sup>

10. By the same Circular State Letter countries were also invited to submit Country Reports no later than 31 December 2014.

#### *Training session on the Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports*

11. On 12 December 2013, a training session in the form of a webinar was held to introduce and provide assistance with the use of the Guidelines. The webinar was attended by NFPs and other professionals involved in the preparation of Country Reports. It introduced the different sections of the Guidelines, explained how the Guidelines can be used to compile the report and addressed questions from countries. The recording of the webinar is available and can be accessed on the Commission website<sup>12</sup> (in English).

### **Preparation of thematic studies**

12. The Commission agreed that FAO should oversee the preparation of a number of thematic studies involving competent organizations and/or experts, to address specific topics as a contribution to the Report.<sup>13</sup> In response to this request the Secretary commissioned two studies: a study on the contribution of civil society organizations and actions in support of the conservation and use of biodiversity for food and agriculture and a study on the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to the resilience of socio-ecological systems.

13. Potential authors have been identified and in some cases already contacted for four additional studies that will be commissioned in the course of 2015, subject to the availability of funds. The studies under consideration would address: the state of knowledge of the current and potential contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture (including ecosystem services) to sustainable intensification; the contribution of biodiversity for food and agriculture to disaster response and preparedness; the role of international protected area programmes in supporting the maintenance and

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<sup>8</sup> CGRFA-14/13/3 and CGRFA-14/13/Report, Appendix I, table 1.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/guidelines/en/>

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/nr/documents/CGRFA/CSL\\_SoWBFA/CSL\\_SoWBFA\\_e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/nr/documents/CGRFA/CSL_SoWBFA/CSL_SoWBFA_e.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/national-focal-points/en/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/biodiversity/webinar/en/>

<sup>13</sup> CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 14.

use of biodiversity for food and agriculture; and projected trends in biodiversity for food and agriculture for the next 50 years.

### **Mapping of existing information sources**

14. In order to take full advantage of existing information sources, international databases, global reports (including from FAO), scientific literature, national reports and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans prepared for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant literature were identified and assessed as additional sources of information for possible inclusion in the Report. The sources of information identified will be used for appropriate sections of the Report.

### **Global biodiversity agenda**

15. The Commission Secretariat provided information on the Report, its objectives, conceptual framework, scope and preparation process at a number of occasions, including at a side event held on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, at a side event organized by the Commission Secretariat on the occasion of the fifth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and at a side event held by the Commission Secretariat on the occasion of the sessions of the Commission's intergovernmental technical working groups on plant and forest genetic resources. The Commission Secretariat also provided information to other global processes, including the Global Soil Partnership.

16. At its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD specifically welcomed the preparation of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*.<sup>14</sup>

## **III. NEXT STEPS**

17. Countries that not have done so yet are encouraged to finalize and submit their Country Reports at their earliest convenience, in order to allow sufficient time for the analysis and synthesis of information provided for the subsequent preparation of the Report. Technical support will continue to be provided to countries upon request.

18. Regional consultations will be instrumental to review Country Reports, consider regional issues and identify priority needs.<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, regional consultations may prove very useful to help countries finalizing and submitting their reports. The collection of information at the regional level will complement Country Reports, and provide countries that will not have prepared a report an opportunity to share information and contribute to the process. Regional consultations will also be an occasion for countries to identify and share ideas on issues and priorities related to biodiversity for food and agriculture in the region. As originally planned and endorsed by the Commission, consultations will be held in all regions, where possible through videoconferences, and subject to the availability of funds.

19. The Secretary will coordinate the next steps of the process as previously outlined.<sup>16</sup> Activities will include undertaking thematic studies, analysing and synthesising data, holding regional consultations, preparing a draft for comments, organizing a peer-review process, submitting the draft Report at the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session, and finalizing, publishing and launching the Report and its summary.

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<sup>14</sup> COP 12 Decision XII/6.

<sup>15</sup> CGRFA-14/13/3, paragraph 17.

<sup>16</sup> CGRFA-14/13/3, paragraph 17.

#### IV. EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

20. Additional human resources will be required to collect, map, analyse and synthesize information and to draft, publish and translate the Report. Along with professional staff and consultants, the contribution of Associate Professional Officers supported by countries, interns and volunteers would be welcomed.

21. The preparation of the Report was so far funded from FAO's Regular Program; additional extra-budgetary resources were received from Spain and Norway. The budget contained in *Appendix II* to this document is a revision of the cost estimate provided to the last Session of the Commission<sup>17</sup>; it has been revised in line with the priorities identified above and in the light of progress made. The preparation of Country Reports is not included in this budget. It is estimated that around USD 1,600,000 will be required as extra-budgetary funds, provided that existing Regular Program staff resources are secured, which is subject to the approval of the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 by the FAO Conference.

#### V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

22. The Commission may wish to
- i. Acknowledge the progress made in the preparation of the Report;
  - ii. Encourage countries that have not yet done so, to submit their Country Reports at their earliest convenience;
  - iii. Request its Secretary to continue working towards the finalization of the Report and submit a draft of the Report for consideration by the Commission at its next regular session;
  - iv. Request its Secretary to continue reporting on the status of preparation of the Report at relevant international meetings and ensure that it contributes to the global biodiversity agenda, in particular to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
  - v. Invite countries to integrate findings from their Country Reports as well as any follow-up activities into their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans;
  - vi. Invite stakeholders to continue submitting inputs to the preparation of the Report; and
  - vii. Invite donors and relevant international organizations to make available extra-budgetary financial resources for the preparation of the Report, including for the implementation of the regional consultation process, and in-kind support.

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<sup>17</sup> CGRFA-14/13/3, Appendix III.

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**APPENDIX I**


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**LIST OF COUNTRIES WITH NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS FOR THE STATE OF THE  
WORLD'S BIODIVERSITY FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

 (as of 1 November 2014)
 

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<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>ASIA</b>	<b>NEAR EAST</b>	<b>EUROPE</b>	<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>NORTHERN AMERICA</b>
Algeria Benin Burkina Faso Burundi Cameroon Cabo Verde Ethiopia Guinea-Bissau Kenya Madagascar Mali Mauritania Mauritius Sao Tome and Principe Senegal Seychelles Togo Zambia	Nepal Thailand Viet Nam	Egypt Jordan Kuwait Lebanon Syrian Arab Republic	Armenia Austria Belgium Croatia Cyprus Czech Republic Finland France Georgia Germany Hungary Moldova, Republic of Netherlands Norway Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Switzerland United Kingdom	Argentina Bolivia, Plurinational State of Chile Costa Rica Grenada Mexico Peru Saint Lucia Suriname	United States of America
					<b>SOUTH WEST PACIFIC</b>
					Australia Cook Islands Fiji Marshall Islands New Zealand Palau Samoa Solomon Islands Tonga

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**APPENDIX II**


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**REVISED COST ESTIMATES FOR EXTRA-BUDGETARY RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**


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<b>Items</b>	<b>Calculation</b>	<b>Purpose and notes</b>	<b>Cost in US\$</b>
Professional staff and consultancy costs	24 months P3/P4 level 2 consultants for 12 months	Team of professional staff and consultants to undertake the collection, mapping, analysis and synthesis of information and to draft the Report	525 000
Staff costs	6 months General Service staff	General Service staff to provide administrative support	52 500
Thematic studies	4 studies @ US\$40 000/study	To support development of thematic studies	160 000
Regional meetings	5 meetings @ US\$100 000/meeting	Meetings to review Country Reports, consider regional issues and identify priority needs	500 000
Communication strategy	Consultants and production of leaflets, web site, etc.	Development and implementation of the communication strategy to facilitate dissemination of the main findings of the Report	70 000
Production of the Report	Editing, graphic design, translation and publishing	Finalization and publication of the Report	300 000
<b>Grand total</b>			<b>1 607 500</b>