



The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Our Ref.: PL 40/31

Rome, 22 July 2011

NOTIFICATION

Announcement of a Capacity Building Project for Developing Countries on the Implementation of the International Treaty and in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and
Call for Expressions of Interest

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to inform Contracting Parties of the launching of the referenced capacity building project by Bioversity International. The project will support research and capacity strengthening activities in countries concerning the implementation of the International Treaty, with a focus on policy issues associated with the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing (MLS).

The project is financed by the generous contribution of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS) to Bioversity International, which will be the lead implementing agency for the project.

The project will benefit from the institutional coordination mechanisms that were established through the Joint Capacity Building Programme set up by the Treaty, FAO and Bioversity International (see notification *NCP GB3 Capacity Building*; Resolution 8/2009; Resolution 8/2011). The Secretariat of the International Treaty provides overall coordination for the Joint Programme, in particular in order to ensure positive synergies with other relevant capacity building initiatives, including those for the entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

During this phase, initial grants of up to US\$ fifty thousand (US\$50,000) will be available, per recipient country, for activities lasting 1-2 years.

Attached to this notification are a full project description (*Annex 1*) and a template for detailing expressions of interest (*Annex 2*), as developed by Bioversity International.

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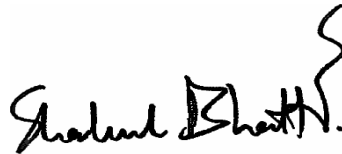
I wish to draw your attention on the fact that Bioversity International will remain the sole entity responsible for the selection of recipient countries, based on the criteria that are set forth in the project description, as well as for the technical implementation of the project.

Interested Contracting Parties are invited to submit expressions of interest before **16 September 2001**, by post, fax or e-mail to the following address:

Dr. Michael Halewood
Head, Policy Research and Support Unit
Bioversity International
Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 00057 Maccarese
Rome, Italy.
Fax: +39-0661979661
Email: m.halewood@cgiar.org
www.bioversityinternational.org

Bioversity International will report on a regular basis to the Governing Body on progress with project implementation and, if necessary, on issues arising in the delivery of technical assistance that may require policy guidance.

Please accept Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Shakeel Bhatti
Secretary
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture





Annex 1

Strengthening National Capacities to Implement the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

Project description

With funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (DGIS) **Bioversity International** is supporting research and capacity strengthening activities in countries concerning the implementation of the International Treaty, with a focus on the multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing (MLS).

This project builds upon the Genetic Resources Policy Initiative (GRPI), a six-year project which supported research and capacity-building activities for policy-making related to genetic resources.

Outputs

The expected outputs of the project include:

- A critical density of people in each participating country, representing a wide range of perspectives, will have advanced technical expertise concerning the Treaty and how it should be implemented in their country. They will have the capacity to address how the MLS interfaces with other international and national laws that apply in the country (e.g., the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol);
- Raised awareness among a range of stakeholders about the potential for them to take advantage of the Treaty and the MLS in particular;
- Enhanced clarity about the status of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) in the country vis-à-vis the MLS and who needs to be involved in considering requests for access to those materials;
- Draft policies, legislation and administrative guidelines, as appropriate, to implement the MLS, taking into consideration the special circumstance of the country; and
- Enhanced understanding of challenges and opportunities related to complementary benefit-sharing components, including information exchange, and transfer of technologies 'under fair and most favourable terms'.

At the country level, project activities should be guided by an oversight committee that include representatives of relevant government agencies and different stakeholder groups.

Activities

National partners will conduct a survey of baseline factors relevant to the country's implementation of the MLS. They will also undertake complementary research and capacity building activities. Some of these may be identified right away and others may be identified through the survey of baseline factors. Examples of research activities include:



- Analyses of existing laws and policies in the country to determine if there is currently legal space to implement the MLS. Identification of options to create requisite space and facilitate interface with other existing, relevant national laws;
- Development of draft policies, laws, guidelines, as appropriate, taking into consideration the particular situation of the country;
- Analyses of whether different PGRFA in the country are in the management and control of the national government and in the public domain. Identification of options for encouraging voluntary inclusion of PGRFA in the MLS;
- Analyses of PGRFA flows within, into and out of the country; analyses of PGRFA users' experiences and perspectives regarding access to germplasm; and
- Analyses of benefits and costs of participating in the MLS.

During this phase, initial grants of up to 50,000 USD will be available for activities lasting 1-2 years.

Eligibility

Expressions of interest are to be submitted either by national Treaty Focal Points or representatives from government departments responsible for coordinating national implementation of the Treaty.

Selection criteria

1. Project relevance
 - a. How will the project contribute to enhanced conservation and sustainable use of PGRFA, benefit sharing, and to food security, in the country concerned?
 - b. What is the impact of the project on the implementation of the Treaty's multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing?
 - c. Does the project complement other International Treaty-related activities in the country, (including information sharing, technology transfer, conservation and sustainable use), if there are any?
2. Feasibility
 - a. Is the proposed activity feasible in terms of resources and timing?
 - b. Are the types of activities most effective towards achieving the project's expected results?
3. Participation and collaboration
 - a. Do the project's activities ensure effective participation of different users of PGRFA?
 - b. Does the project promote collaboration between different governmental departments and with other stakeholders (including farmers, private sector, networks, etc) dealing with genetic resources?



- c. Does the project forge links with other activities in the country related to access and benefit sharing, for example, efforts to implement the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol?
- d. Does the project have the potential to synergize with other ongoing relevant capacity building initiatives?

For the purposes of overall project administration and management efficiencies, as well as to explore potential regional synergies for implementation of the MLS, geographical proximity between selected countries will be taken into consideration.

Selection process

Bioversity will assemble a technical committee to review expressions of interest. Expressions of interest should be submitted using the template herewith attached (Annex 2) and sent to the address provided below. The strongest candidates will be asked to develop full proposals.

Contact details for further information and for submission of formal expressions of interest

Dr. Michael Halewood, Head, Policy Research and Support Unit, Bioversity International, Via dei Tre Denari 472/a, 00057 Maccarese, Rome, Italy; www.bioversityinternational.org; Email: m.halewood@cgiar.org; Fax: +39-0661979661.

Deadline for submission: 16 September 2011.



Annex 2

Template for expressions of interest

Strengthening National Capacities to Implement the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing

NB: The expression of interest should not exceed 5 pages in length (plus annexed budget). Longer documents will not be considered. Applications in English are preferred. Otherwise, applications may be made in French or Spanish.

I. PROPOSED PROJECT TITLE

II. NAME OF APPLICANT

Implementing government agency:

Name of Treaty focal point:

Contact person:

Address:

Country:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:



III. PROJECT DESCRIPTION (maximum 2 pages long, single space)

A. BACKGROUND

B. OBJECTIVES

C. INTENDED BENEFICIARIES

D. ACTIVITIES *(for example: establish oversight committee; inception workshop; baseline study; research; capacity building; developing draft policies, laws, guidelines; consultative processes, etc.*

E. OUTPUTS *(products directly resulting from the planned-for activities)*



F. OUTCOMES (*How are the outputs expected to be used within the country to lead to desirable outcomes? How will the project ensure those uses?*)

G. PARTNERSHIPS AND LINKS

G.1. Involvement of key organizations and stakeholder groups. (where possible list names of individuals and organizations)

G.2. Links to other relevant activities and actors in the country related to implementation of the Treaty, CBD/Nagoya Protocol or other relevant international agreements.

H. TIMING

Duration (months):

Starting date (month/year):

I. BUDGET IN USD/RESOURCES

For example:



<i>Item</i>	<i>Quantity/ duration</i>	<i>Rate per unit (US\$)</i>	<i>Total US\$</i>
<i>National Experts</i>			
<i>Researchers</i>			
<i>Administrative assistance</i>			
<i>Travel costs</i>			
<i>Workshops</i>			
<i>Publications and distribution</i>			
<i>Total</i>			

For any further questions, please contact Michael Halewood, Head, Policy Research and Support Unit, Bioversity International by e-mail at m.halewood@cgiar.org or by phone +39 066118294