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Item 5 of the Draft Provisional Agenda
INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
FIFTH MEETING OF THE <i>AD HOC</i> ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNDING STRATEGY
Geneva, Switzerland, 26-27 May 2010
EXECUTION OF THE BENEFIT-SHARING FUND'S PROJECT CYCLE (2010/2011): CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010

1. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Third Session, the Governing Body recognized the importance of making concrete progress in the operationalization of the Funding Strategy. The Governing Body welcomed the *Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Funding Strategy (Strategic Plan)* and agreed that this plan will constitute a basis for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the Funding Strategy by the Secretariat and the Contracting Parties.¹

2. The Governing Body decided also to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy to, inter alia, advise the Bureau and the Secretary on the operation of the Benefit-sharing Fund.² At its first meeting, the Bureau of the Fourth Governing Body of the Treaty provided guidance regarding preparations for the next round of the project cycle.

3. The Bureau agreed on opening the next call for proposals and considered modalities for the next round of the project cycle, including a possible timeline and the total amount of funds to be allocated under the next call. It also discussed the possibility of opening more than one call or different windows within the same call with the aim of supporting different types of projects in a phased approach.³

4. In this context, it requested the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee to advise the Bureau and the Secretary on the execution of the Benefit-sharing Fund's project cycle during the biennium 2010/2011, on the basis of preparatory work done by the Secretary, including the engagement of the necessary expert advice. In particular, the Bureau requested the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee to advise on:

¹ IT/GB-3/09/Report, Appendix A.3, para. 2.

² IT/GB-3/09/Report, Appendix A.3, para. 5.

³ IT/GB-4 Bureau 1/10/Report, para. 17.

- the timeline for the next round of the project cycle;
- the structure and design of the next call for proposals;
- the size and types of projects to be funded within the next round of the project cycle;
- the total amount of funds to be allocated under the next call for proposals and the distribution to the different components or windows within the call, if applicable;
- possible additional criteria for the screening of pre-proposals, according to the type of projects sought;
- any other issue it may consider relevant for the execution of the project cycle in the biennium 2010/11.⁴

5. This document seeks the advice from the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on the execution of the next round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and in particular the *Draft Call for Proposals 2010*, included in Appendix 1 of this document. The document first provides an analysis of expected funds to be allocated under the next call for proposals. It then discusses the structure and design of the next call for proposals, including the different windows, the size and types of projects to be funded, possible additional criteria for screening the pre-proposals and timeline for the next round of the project cycle. Guidance is sought from the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee in section 4 of the document.

6. In preparing this document, the Secretary sought the advice of a selected number of high-level international experts. The analysis and recommendations of these experts regarding the thematic focus, structure and design of the next call for proposals are included in the document *Expert advice on the second Call for Proposals, including a Strategy and Programme for the Benefit-sharing Fund*.⁵

7. Furthermore, a meeting was held in London in April 2010 with collaborating international organizations to discuss the advice given by the experts for the execution of the next project cycle, as well as possible partnerships and collaboration for the implementation of the next call for proposals. A summary of this meeting is given in the document, *Report of a meeting with collaborating international organizations on the next Call for Proposals*.⁶

8. This document also builds on another source of expertise. At the invitation of the Italian Government, international experts met in Bari, Italy, in December 2009, at a *Policy Seminar on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Global Challenges and Future Direction*.⁷ The participants stressed the importance of plant genetic resource for food and agriculture in responding to food security challenges resulting from climate change. In particular, the Policy Seminar heard a paper entitled, "Background paper on climate change and how the International Treaty can contribute to face this global challenge", and Working Group I focused on how the Funding Strategy could address the relevant challenges. The summary of Working Group I is annexed to document IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.6.

9. Following the Bari Seminar in December 2009, a second international seminar was held by Contracting Parties with a focus on benefit-sharing under the Treaty. At the joint invitation of the Governments of Indonesia and Norway, international experts met in Bogor, Indonesia, in March 2010⁸. The participants stressed that in order to sustain food security and help agriculture adapt to climate change, plant breeding must play a central role. Realizing that climate change adaptation occurs at a local scale, plant breeding should be decentralized and reflect local

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.3

⁶ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.4

⁷ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.6

⁸ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.6

community needs. The meeting identified gaps, pointed to strategic opportunities to meet the identified gaps, and set priorities which also fit the priority areas identified and adopted by the Governing Body for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

10. While remaining always within the adopted priorities, eligibility criteria and operational procedures of the Governing Body, all these sources have been taken into account and synthesized in undertaking the preparatory work that was requested for the deliberations of the Committee on the next call for proposals. The results are summarized in following sections of the document.

2. EXPECTED FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED UNDER THE *CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010*

2.1 Expected Funds Available within the Benefit-sharing Fund for the Next Call for Proposals

11. According to the Operational Procedures approved by the Governing Body at its Second Session the call for proposals must inform about the expected funds available for the current project cycle. At a later stage in the execution of the project cycle, the approval of projects for funding is to be done according to the funds at the disposal of the Governing Body. As described in section 3 of the document, there is a long time period between the opening of the call for proposals and the approval of projects, which would be a crucial time for fund raising.

12. The Strategic Plan establishes a five-year objective of US\$ 116 million to be met through achieving a series of progressively larger working targets in a phased approach. It begins with an initial target for the first 18 months (July 2009 – December 2010) of 10 US\$ million.⁹ The Strategic Plan also foresees that a significant portion of contributions received in any given biennium will be spent in that biennium, i.e. through the call for proposals occurring during that period.

13. The implementation of the Strategic Plan is progressing well according to key milestones laid out in it.¹⁰ Financial commitments made, decisions pending and prospect engagement levels indicate the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund is on track towards achieving its 2010 financial target and the expected funds for the *Call for Proposals 2010* is of 10 US\$ million.

2.2 Other Potential Funds Available for the Next Call for Proposals

14. The Governing Body is also seeking advice on innovative approaches to resource mobilization. Within the adopted priorities and Resolutions of the Governing Body, the Secretariat has been discussing with collaborating international organizations on novel approaches to support the resource mobilization efforts of the Benefit-sharing Fund. There may be organizations that are interested in the Benefit-sharing Fund, its priority areas, and in the thematic approach taken in a given call for proposals. These organizations may have funding available and they may wish to invest it in the call for proposals of the Benefit-sharing Fund, because they consider the Fund to be a unique, efficient and promising high-impact financing mechanism or because the programmatic orientation of a particular call for proposals of the Fund coincides with the goals and objectives that they seek to achieve with the funds at their disposal. While in some cases, they may be unable to channel their funds directly through the Benefit-sharing Fund, due to administrative, institutional or other reasons, an innovative approach to mobilize those resources could be to partner with these organizations so that the call for proposals includes the expected funds available from these organizations, but which will not be channelled through the Benefit-sharing Fund. Through this incorporation by reference of the funds that are invested by the

⁹ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.4, section II.D

¹⁰ IT/ACFS-5/10/3

contributing partner in the call, the Governing Body will retain full responsibility and control over the design of the call for proposals and the approval process of projects within the project cycle and yet, at the same time, be able to tap the new and additional financial resources that would otherwise be unavailable.

15. The Secretary has discussed such novel approach to resource mobilization with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at the request of the Governing Body and of the experts from the Bari Policy Seminar on the Treaty. Within the adopted operational procedures of the Fund, UNDP is interested in the possible focus of the next call for proposals “to help farmers to adapt to climate change through the management of plant genetic resources” (see section 3) and financial resources may be potentially available from an existing UNDP Trust Fund for such a call of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Depending on the advice given by the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee, in particular with regard to the design of the *Call for Proposals 2010* and support for a partnership with UNDP as a collaborating organization, UNDP has indicated its willingness to invest considerable funds into the next *Call for Proposals* of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

2.3 Advice Sought from the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee

16. Advice is sought from the Committee on:

- the expected funds available for the *Call for Proposals 2010*;
- the development of partnerships with collaborating international organizations on novel approaches to support the resource mobilization efforts of the Benefit-sharing Fund, and in particular, the development of a cooperation with UNDP.

17. The Committee may wish to revise accordingly the *Draft Call for Proposals 2010*, in particular Section 2.3 (expected funds).

3. DESIGN OF THE *CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010*: THEMATIC FOCUS

3.1 Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at a Time of Climate Change: Calls for Action

18. There is widespread agreement that one of the areas of greatest concern currently confronting agriculture is how to ensure sustainable food security in the face of climate change. There is in fact a growing consensus among agriculturalists generally that the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture will be critical for successful adaptation to climate change.

19. In 2007, the Fourth Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, indicated, albeit without much detail, the need for, and possibilities of breeding improved varieties of key staple crops to help address the impact of climate change. During that same year, the Governing Body of the International Treaty adopted the three funding priorities of the Benefit-sharing Fund as Annex 1 of the Funding Strategy. Part of the three adopted funding priorities is “to respond to climate change”, as stated in the third funding priority of Annex 1 as adopted by the Governing Body:

“diversification of crop production, genetic enhancement and broadening the genetic base of crops will directly contribute to increasing the sustainability of agricultural production. This will lessen dependence on external inputs, increase productivity, and respond to the challenge of climate change.”¹¹

¹¹ IT/GB-2/07/Report, *Appendix D.1*

20. In October 2009, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture endorsed the Second Report on *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Report stresses the need for more investment in the sustainable use of under-utilized crops as well as of major crops that are likely to assume greater importance in the future as the effects of climate change intensify.¹²

21. In November 2009, world leaders convened at FAO Headquarters for the World Summit on Food Security unanimously adopted a declaration pledging a renewed commitment to achieve global food security. The Declaration of the Summit states in paragraph 5:

*"Climate change poses additional severe risks to food security and the agriculture sector. Its expected impact is particularly fraught with danger for smallholder farmers in developing countries, notably the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and for already vulnerable populations. Any recipe for confronting the challenges of climate change must allow for mitigation options and a firm commitment to the adaptation of agriculture, including through conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture."*¹³

22. Within the specific context of the International Treaty, there was full agreement by experts attending the *Policy Seminar on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Global Challenges and Future Direction*, held in Bari in December 2009 on the importance of plant genetic resource for food and agriculture in responding to food security challenges resulting from climate change. Because of the importance and urgency of taking steps to help agriculture adapt to climate change, the policy experts recommended that the Benefit-sharing Fund should, in the near future, focus on climate change adaptation and plant genetic resources. In particular, the summary of the Seminar's Working Group on the Funding Strategy states that, "the group recognised the importance of climate change adaptation at this critical time and recommended that the next call for proposals of the Fund should focus on climate change adaptation and PGRFA."¹⁴

23. The Bogor Seminar on benefit-sharing under the International Treaty, discussed that the Treaty could optimally leverage its unique systems – the Multilateral System and the Benefit-sharing Fund – towards climate change adaptation, if it can focus three key functions of these systems towards climate change adaptation: germplasm exchange under the SMTA; non-commercial benefit-sharing through technology transfer; and commercial benefit-sharing through the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Through the coordination of these three functions, the Treaty could provide the three key inputs which countries and the agricultural community need in order to adapt food crops to climate change: climate-ready seeds, adaptation technology, and focused adaptation financing.

3.2 Expert Advice: Climate Change and its Application within the Priorities Adopted by the Governing Body

24. Following the guidance received from the Bureau of the Fourth Session of the Governing Body, the Secretariat has sought the advice of a selected number of high-level international experts on the execution of the next round of the Benefit-sharing Fund's project cycle. The document prepared by the experts provides a number of suggestions, including the identification of a need for a focused strategy and programme for the use of funds of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

¹² FAO, 2009. *The State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Second Report*. Rome, Italy, page 116. <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/017/ak528e.pdf>

¹³ <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/Meeting/018/k6050e.pdf>

¹⁴ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.6, p.3

25. The *Expert Advice* document emphasizes the importance that, fully consistent with the three priorities adopted by the Governing Body at its Second Session, the use of funds be focussed thematically. The choice of the thematic focus must represent a real, major and urgent area of concern to all, and particularly developing countries, and must respond to international concerns and the priorities of potential large-scale voluntary donors to the Benefit-sharing Fund. There must be a high probability of success in tackling the important issues identified, through the enhanced conservation and use of plant genetic resources and there should be the potential of leveraging the International Treaty's unique mandate, comparative advantages, mandate and systems.

26. The high-level experts agreed that, in their view, the major thematic focus of the Benefit-sharing Fund, at least over the coming two rounds of the project cycle and probably longer, should be on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to help ensure food security in the face of climate change. Such a focused approach should in particular benefit the most vulnerable farmers and rural populations.

27. A wide range of related and inter-connected approaches and activities would need to be covered in any comprehensive effort to conserve and use plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to help ensure food security in the face of climate change. Such a comprehensive effort is broad and includes a wide range of priority activities for the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including *inter alia*: *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives; collecting and *ex situ* conservation; on-farm management; participatory and formal plant breeding, dissemination of seed and planting materials.¹⁵ In order to achieve a meaningful, focused and significant impact through the Benefit-sharing Fund, there is a need to narrow the activities on which to concentrate the investments of the Fund. In doing so, it is important to:

- take fully into account the priorities already established by the Governing Body;
- consider the comparative advantage of the International Treaty and its Benefit-sharing Fund; and,
- ensure that the Benefit-sharing Fund complements and does not duplicate the efforts of other key actors in the field.

28. Given the above, the experts advise that the Benefit-sharing Fund, within the priorities adopted by the Governing Body for the Fund, during at least the next two rounds of the project cycle, concentrates on the first priority adopted by the Governing Body and on three inter-related, already established activities to address the other two priorities adopted by the Governing Body at its Second Session:

- information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building;
- on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- participatory plant breeding; and,
- the distribution of appropriate seed and planting materials.

29. There are equally important activities that contribute to the proposed thematic focus, but will only be treated as part of the cross-sectorial area of information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building, and not as part of the sustainable use and on-farm conservation areas (e.g. the *in situ* conservation of crop wild relatives). Other activities are too long-term and open ended for the projected financial resources available in the Benefit-sharing Fund at present

¹⁵ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.5, *Appendix 1*, "Key activities in the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for ensuring food security in the face of climate change"

time (eg. formal plant breeding) or may already be covered to a significant extent by other institutions (eg. *ex situ* conservation by the Global Crop Diversity Trust) and should therefore not be duplicated.

30. Such a thematic focus will not imply broadening or modifying the three agreed priorities of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Rather it constitutes a precise, consistent and concrete implementation of the agreed priorities with the aim of increasing the positive impact of the Fund to international concerns and priorities of real and potential donors.

31. The Meeting with Collaborating International Organizations on the Call for Proposals, which reviewed the expert advice received on the Call for Proposals, discussed that there was general understanding on the value of focusing the next round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund on climate change within the framework of the adopted priority areas. The participating partner institutions felt that such a focus would be an exciting development and will add value within the map of adaptation to climate change and agriculture, as it centres on farmers, the ultimate beneficiaries of the conservation and sustainable utilization of PGRFA.

3.3 Climate Change: A Programmatic and Strategic Approach

32. No major international programme has yet been mounted to counter the threat of climate change to sustainable agriculture and food security. Much remains to be done; so far, no authoritative and effective programme for managing plant genetic resources for climate change has been proposed.

33. It is, therefore, highly appropriate that the Benefit-sharing Fund should take a leading role in initiating a major global programme to address this issue. There is a distinct window of opportunity for a major programme to be initiated, in full conformity with the priorities adopted by the Governing Body. An articulated programme on climate change has the potential to attract extensive funding in order to achieve the fund-raising target established by the Strategic Plan for the implementation of the Benefit-sharing Fund¹⁶

34. Given the reality both of climate change and the challenge of producing food needed by expanding human populations, this is clearly an objective of immense importance. Enabling farmers to adapt to climate change is a medium- and long- term activity. A programme on climate change should therefore extend at least over the coming two rounds of the project cycle and probably longer.

35. Such a programme will require building partnerships with relevant institutions. The International Treaty, because of its mandate and operational systems, is exceptionally well placed in the international policy landscape to create such a programme, but should not seek to act alone or in isolation. Neither the International Treaty nor its Benefit-sharing Fund, have a Secretariat that is, or wishes to be, an implementing agency and thus it is critical that the work be carried out through close collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders and partner organizations.

36. There are substantial opportunities for strengthening cooperation through such programme with other regional and international institutions such as CBD, CGIAR, FAO, GCDT, UNFCCC or UNDP.¹⁷ This fact was confirmed by a number of collaborating international organizations during the meeting held in London in April 2010.¹⁸ The organizations which took part in the Meeting noted that when playing a leading role in the roadmap of agriculture and climate change adaptation, the Treaty will benefit in engaging in partnerships and develop joint

¹⁶ IT/GB-3/09/Report, *Appendix A.3*, para.4

¹⁷ For example, the Global Crop Diversity Trust is already funding climate change activities in relation to *ex situ* conservation and there could be a large potential for developing integrated and coordinated activities linking *ex situ* conservation to use and *in situ* conservation, funded through close collaboration between the Trust and the Benefit-sharing Fund.

¹⁸ IT/ACFS-5/10/Inf.6

programmes with relevant organizations and institutions. Different kind of partnerships were discussed, i.e. policy, management and implementing partnerships. The Secretariat has issued an invitation to all potential partner organizations for expressions of interest in partnering with the Benefit-sharing Fund, in order to develop such partnerships on a comprehensive, effective and practical basis.

37. An important feature of a programme on climate change should be to ensure that activities funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund will not be a piecemeal, but conceived and implemented within a strategic framework. This requires the development and regular updating of strategic action plans and based on these, the proactive development of the means to adapt to climate change.

38. In tackling climate change, it is suggested that the Benefit-sharing Fund operates in two overlapping phases: firstly the development of overarching strategic action plans, and secondly a role-out, or implementation phase.

39. The strategic action plans developed in the first phase should provide the framework in which activities supported by the Benefit-sharing Fund can be developed and future calls for proposals articulated. To the extent possible, the individual strategic action plans should dovetail and complement each other and not overlap unduly. Collectively the strategic action plans should provide the Governing Body, donors and other interested stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of the overall objectives and scope of the Benefit-Sharing Fund's programme on climate change, which should provide benchmarks against which to measure its success.

40. The second phase would fund specific projects to implement the strategic action plans and priorities established in these strategies. These implementation projects should be substantially larger and more comprehensive than the eleven small-scale projects funded during the first round of the project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Target beneficiaries and the expected outputs and outcomes of the projects should be identified and impact pathways and milestones, including verifiable indicators of success, should be made clear from the outset.

41. Given the current absence of strategic targeted plans in the next project cycle (2010/2011), it will be important that, during the first phase, the development of strategic action plans is coupled with some initial immediate action projects. As explained in the next section, these should have the potential for a short-term impact to assist farmers to adapt to climate change through the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

42. The Bureau of the Fourth Session of the Governing Body already discussed the possibility of opening more than one call or different windows within the same call with the aim of supporting different types of projects in a phased approach.¹⁹ It is suggested that the *Call for Proposals 2010* be designed with two distinctive windows: 1) development of strategic action plans,²⁰ and 2) support the implementation of immediate action projects. This will further be explained in the next section.

3.4 Advice Sought from the *Ad-Hoc* Advisory Committee

43. Within the priorities adopted by the Governing Body for the Benefit-sharing Fund, the proposed main focus and scope of the projects to be funded by the Benefit sharing Fund through the Call for Proposals 2010 and over the coming few years, is to help ensure sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through a targeted set of high impact

¹⁹ IT/GB-4 Bureau 1/10/Report, para. 17.

²⁰ It is foreseen that a certain amount of resources will also need to be devoted to strategic planning in subsequent rounds, in an on-going and evolving series of planning exercises. The proportion going to such strategy development should become greatly reduced from the third round onwards, with a progressively greater percentage going to projects to implement the strategies.

activities on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

44. The application of this thematic focus, in order to be successful, requires the development of a programmatic and strategic approach for future investments of the Benefit-sharing Fund. Such an approach would be started through the Call for Proposals 2010 but requires further mid-term planning. The programme should provide for reviewing progress and lessons learned, responding to the evolving priorities adopted by the Governing Body, building partnerships with collaborating institutions and scaling up the programme over time as more funds become available. A programme and strategy for future investments of the Benefit-sharing Fund will reinforce and complement the Strategic Plan for resource mobilization and the Business Plan of the Governing Body.

45. Advice from the Committee is sought on the following proposed measures resulting from the expert advice:

- within the priorities adopted by the Governing Body, setting a thematic focus on “helping ensure sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through a targeted set of high impact activities on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture“ for the *Call for Proposals 2010* and over the coming years;
- the application of the above thematic focus in the *Call for Proposals 2010* within the priorities adopted by the Governing Body;
- the development of a programmatic and strategic approach on the thematic focus for the Benefit-sharing Fund.

46. With regard to the last item, the Committee may wish to advise the Secretariat to prepare elements for building up a mid-term programme for discussion at its sixth meeting, as preparatory work for the Fourth Session of the Governing Body.

47. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to review and revise the *Draft Call for Proposals 2010*, in particular Sections 2.1 and 2.2.

4. DESIGN OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010: WINDOWS, TYPES AND SIZE OF PROJECTS, ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR THE SCREENING OF PRE-PROPOSALS

48. Following the guidance from the Bureau of the Governing Body at its first meeting, the Call for Proposals 2010 has been designed to contain two distinctive windows: 1) development of strategic action plans; and 2) support the implementation of immediate action projects.

49. The following paragraphs and the *Draft Call for Proposals 2010* included in Appendix 1, describe these windows in detail and, as requested by the Bureau, include information on the types and size of projects to be funded, the amount of funds allocated to each window and the possible additional criteria for the screening of pre-proposals, according to the type of project sought.

4.1 Window 1: Development of Strategic Action Plans

4.1.1 Features of the window

50. A growing understanding of the substantial threat that climate change poses to developing country farmers and food security, has not been met with an equally increased understanding of how they can adapt to these changes, especially through the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In order to address this gap or current understanding and planning, and to initiate the above-mentioned programmatic and strategic approach, this window will support the development of strategic action plans.

51. The *Draft Call for Proposals 2010*, in its section 3.1, provides detailed information on the type of projects expected to be funded for the development of strategic action plans, including their rationale, scope, and expected outputs.

52. It is expected that individual planning projects would not exceed US\$ 0.5 million, with an average strategy development project size being in the order of US\$ 200,000 – US\$ 400,000.

53. As foreseen in the Operational Procedures adopted by the Governing Body, a number of criteria for the screening of pre-proposals for the development of strategic action plans has been added to the *Draft Call for Proposals 2010* which are additional and complementary to the criteria included in the Operational Procedures adopted by the Governing Body at its Second Session.

4.1.2 Help Desk

54. The Bureau has also requested the advice of the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee on any other issue it may consider relevant for the execution of the project cycle 2010/2011. Given the importance of the strategic action plans for both future fund raising and investment of the Benefit-sharing Fund, the Expert Advice Document recommends that some kind of technical support be provided to support the development of full project proposals. After a pre-proposal has been selected for further development, a Help Desk might offer proponents support to help them prepare their full project proposal. Such support might include technical expert advice (e.g. in the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, institutional or policy matters, climate change and adaptation strategies, etc), and provision for consultation among prospective project partners.

55. While the Secretariat of the Treaty has no capacity and resources to provide such a function, the Joint Programme on Capacity Building for the Implementation of the International Treaty, which already exists since the Second Session of the Governing Body, could serve as a model for the provision of such Help Desk function. All support provided would be subject to available funding, which would be mobilized through existing channels, such as through a window of the Joint Programme or by adding one or more partner institutions. This would have the advantage of drawing on existing partnerships with institutions and programmes that can support the implementation of the Treaty, such as FAO and Bioversity International, while adding other relevant partnerships which can ensure that the Treaty Secretariat does keep an oversight role, such as, for example, UNDP, the Global Crop Diversity Trust, or relevant Centres of the CGIAR. A possible Help Desk might operate, at least in part, through the services of a team of regional or international experts who could provide technical expert advice and support for consultations among prospective project partners at the full proposal stage in order to support the preparation of high-quality proposals for the Treaty.

4.2 Window 2: Support to the Implementation of Immediate Action Projects

56. It is important to demonstrate the value that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture have for farmers to meet food security and face climate change. Funds available for the Call for Proposals 2010 should support a balanced portfolio of both strategy development and immediate action projects. This is important in order to:

- make use of all the resources provided by donors for the purpose for which they were provided, rather than just leaving part of them unused;
- implement donors' preference for having the funds they have contributed disbursed as rapidly as possible, enabling them to report on the impact of the funds and thereby, hopefully, generate further contributions;
- gain experience with managing a significant portfolio of medium/large projects; and
- achieve a few 'quick wins' and thus demonstrate to potential donors the immediate and high impact of the Benefit-sharing Fund and the value of supporting the Fund.

57. The Draft Call for Proposals 2010, in its section 3.2, provides detailed information on the type of immediate action projects expected to be funded, including their rationale and scope.

58. It is expected that the amount of funds to be allocated to this window will be around US\$ 4 million. The cost of immediate impact projects would not exceed US\$ 300,000.

59. A number of criteria for the screening of pre-proposals for the implementation of immediate action projects have been added to the Draft Call for Proposals 2010 which are in addition and complementary to the criteria included in the Operational Procedures adopted by the Governing Body at its Second Session.

4.3 Advice Sought from the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee

60. Advice from the Committee is sought on:

- the design of the window for the development of strategic plans, including on:
 - the type of projects to be funded (rationale, scope, institutional setting and expected outputs);
 - amount of funds to be allocated to the window and size of projects;
 - additional criteria for screening pre-proposals;
- the design of the window for the implementation of immediate action projects, including on:
 - the type of projects to be funded (rationale, scope, institutional setting);
 - amount of funds to be allocated to the window and size of projects;
 - additional criteria for screening pre-proposals;
- the provision of a Help Desk function to support the development of full project proposals for the development of strategic action plans;

61. With regard to the last item, the Committee may wish to encourage the provision of the necessary financial support from interested Parties and donors to support the Help Desk function.

62. Accordingly, the Committee may wish to revise the Draft Call for Proposals 2010, in particular its Section 3.

5. DESIGN OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010: TIMELINE OF THE NEXT PROJECT CYCLE

5.1 Timeline for the Next Round of the Project Cycle

63. The project cycle has been outlined in considerable detail in Appendix D.3 of the Funding Strategy. This section provides the timeline for the next project cycle during the biennium 2010/2011.

64. At its Third Session, the Governing Body decided to delegate authority for the execution of the project cycle during the next biennium 2010/2011 to the Bureau.²¹ The Bureau agreed on

1. ²¹ IT/GB-3/09/Report, Appendix A.3, para. 15

opening the next call for proposals and requested *the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee* to advise on the execution of the project cycle (2010/2011), including its timeline.²²

65. The Bureau agreed to take the decision on the modalities of the opening of the next call for proposals and additional criteria for the screening of pre-proposals via email and conference call in late May/early June 2010, on the basis of the advice provided by this Committee.²³

66. The proposed time for opening the Call for Proposals 2010 is June/July 2010, as soon as the Bureau decides on the various modalities of the project cycle. Once the call is issued, the Bureau, Secretariat and Ad Hoc Committee members should publicize the call as much as possible to all potential applicants in order to ensure that the highest quality proposals will be submitted in response to the Call. The timeframes indicated for the steps of the project cycle are already highly compressed. Sufficient time should be given to applicants to prepare good quality full project proposals.

67. Table 1 provides the draft timeline of the next project cycle together with a summary of suggestions arising from the *Expert Advice Document* on the project cycle.

²² IT/GB-4 Bureau 1/10/Report, para. 17

²³ IT/GB-4 Bureau 1/10/Report, para. 19

TABLE 1: DRAFT TIMELINE OF THE NEXT PROJECT CYCLE

Steps within the second round of the Project Cycle	Deadline	Responsibility	Expert advice
Opening of <i>Call for Proposals 2010</i>	28 June 2010	Prepared by the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Bureau and the advice of the <i>Ad Hoc</i> Advisory Committee on the Funding Strategy.	
Submission of pre-proposals	28 August 2010	Contracting Parties or legal or natural persons, in consultation with the Contracting Party eligible to apply for support under the Benefit-sharing Fund for this round of the project cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for submission of pre-proposals should be at least 8 weeks. • The Secretariat may wish to contact certain institutions or groups of institutions, to support Contracting Parties in preparation of pre-proposals.
Screening and response to pre-proposals	10 October 2010	<p><i>Option 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau will request advice to the ACFS on which pre-proposals to invite for full project proposals. The ACFS will review the preparatory screening work by the Secretariat and advise the Bureau accordingly. The Bureau will finalize the screening by e-mail and invite those approved for full project proposals.²⁴ <p><i>Option 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau, on the basis of preparatory work by the Secretariat through a regular meeting held by teleconference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent expert review of all pre-proposals to assist the preparatory work of the Secretariat in screening the pre-proposals. • At least 4 weeks required for the review of pre-proposals before the final decision-making of the Bureau. • Criteria for selection of pre-proposals: priority, technical merit, quality, feasibility, novelty, institutions setting, regional balance. • Between 1,5 and 3 pre-proposals be selected for each project to be finally approved.

²⁴ It is foreseen that the second meeting of the Bureau will be held in mid November 2010 and the sixth meeting of the ACFS in the beginning of October 2010

Submission of project proposals from approved pre-proposals	30 January 2011	Contracting Parties or legal or natural persons, in consultation with the Contracting Party eligible to apply for support under the Benefit-sharing Fund for this round of the project cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum 3 months (and ideally 4 to 6 months) for an applicant to prepare a full proposal • Help Desk to provide feedback and support to successful pre-proposal applicants in the preparation of the full proposal (see paragraphs 67-69 above)
Appraisal of project proposals	27 February 2011	Panel of experts designated by the Bureau in consultation with their Regions ²⁵ will prepare a ranking project proposals according to selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full proposals be subjected to a more extensive external, independent review process to advise Bureau through Secretariat
Approval of projects for funding	6 March 2011	<p>The Bureau in a regular meeting will finalize the appraisal of project proposals and approve projects for funding.</p> <p>The Bureau will announce the projects to be funded during the Fourth Session of the Governing Body (7-11 March 2011)</p>	

²⁵ By 30 November 2010, the Bureau will nominate at least two experts per Region from a roster of experts through e-mail and in consultation with their Regions.

It is foreseen that the second meeting of the Bureau will be held in mid November 2010 and the sixth meeting of the ACFS in the beginning of October 2010

68. It is less feasible at this stage to provide timelines on the disbursement, reporting, monitoring and independent evaluation for the next round of the project cycle. These depend to a large extent on the institutional arrangements and procedures to be put in place at the Fourth Session of the Governing Body of the Treaty. The Committee may wish to further discuss these timelines at its sixth meeting when it will have an in-depth discussion on oversight and implementation of projects of the Fund.

5.2 Advice Sought from the *Ad Hoc* Advisory Committee

69. Advice is sought from the Committee on the timeline for the next round of the project cycle, in particular with regard to the options for screening the pre-proposals provided in Table 1. Following the advice received from the Committee, the Secretariat will prepare Annex 5, *Overview of the Project Cycle* for the Bureau's consideration.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND ADVICE SOUGHT

70. The Benefit-sharing Fund is a high-impact and high-potential initiative that aims to provide funds for the implementation of the International Treaty. However, at least in its early years, it is likely to be limited in size and it is vital that its resources be allocated in a coherent, coordinated and focused manner to areas of highest priority and highest expected impact, especially in developing countries.

71. This document makes some suggestions as to how this might be realized through allocating funds to help the most vulnerable farmers achieve sustainable food security in the face of climate change, through a targeted set of high impact activities on the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

72. The high-level experts, which were consulted on the draft call, unanimously agreed that there is a distinct window of opportunity for focusing the Benefit-sharing Fund investments on climate change adaptation, which is a real and major concern for all countries. The use of funds in this highly focused area has the potential to attract significant voluntary donors and partnerships with major development players, such as UNDP and others.

73. The design and focus of the Benefit-sharing Fund's project cycle (2010/2011) is strategically important in order to enable the future development of the Fund. The Bureau requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee to advise the Bureau and the Secretary on the execution of the next project cycle during the biennium 2010/2011, on the basis of preparatory work done by the Secretary, including the engagement of the necessary expert advice.

74. This document aims to provide all relevant information that the Committee may wish to have at its disposal for the provision of advice to the Bureau. Advice is sought from the Committee on the execution of the next project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund in sections 2.3; 3.4; 4.3; 5.2.

ANNEX I

DRAFT CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2010**1. Introduction**

The *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* came into force in 2004. The Treaty's objectives are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity, for sustainable agriculture and food security. The Treaty currently has 123 Contracting Parties.

The Contracting Parties of the Treaty agree that priority will be given to the implementation of agreed plans and programmes for farmers in developing countries, especially in least developed countries, and in countries with economies in transition, who conserve and sustainably utilize plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Treaty provides for a Funding Strategy, which aims to enhance the availability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness of the provision of financial resources for the implementation of the Treaty. It includes a *Benefit-sharing Fund* which holds the financial resources under the direct control of the Governing Body of the Treaty.

The Governing Body uses the funds in the Benefit-sharing Fund strategically, to play a catalytic role in international cooperation in the area of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Governing Body at its Second Meeting adopted three priorities for the Benefit-sharing Fund, based on the *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. The Governing Body focuses on achieving benefits, in a staged process, in pressing priority areas, identified for a limited period of time.

The three current priority areas of the Benefit-sharing Fund are:

1. Information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building (reflecting Global Plan of Action priority activities 15 and 19):
 - a. *Building strong national programmes is essential for capacity-building in developing countries and furthering the implementation of the Treaty. It is a prerequisite for sustainability of efforts to strengthen and develop national capacities in the conservation and utilization of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.*
 - b. *Expanding and improving education and training in developing countries is a sine qua non, in order to build capacity. Education and training is a long-lasting investment in the sustainable management of the diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in developing countries.*
2. Managing and conserving plant genetic resources on farm (reflecting Global Plan of Action priority activity 2);

- a. *Supporting on-farm management and conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture is the most direct way of reaching farmers, indigenous and local communities in developing countries to whom benefits should flow. It forms a strong contribution to the maintenance of on-farm diversity of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Only by strengthening these efforts can on-farm management of diversity complement ex situ conservation.*
3. The sustainable use of plant genetic resources (reflecting Global Plan of Action priority activities 9, 10, and 11);
- a. *Expanding the characterization and evaluation of collections is necessary to promote and facilitate their use. More complete characterization and evaluation will increase the relevance of germplasm held ex situ and on farm for breeding.*
- b. *Diversification of crop production, genetic enhancement and broadening the genetic base of crops will directly contribute to increasing the sustainability of agricultural production. This will lessen dependence on external inputs, increase productivity, and respond to the challenge of climate change.*

Eligibility and Selection Criteria for projects to be funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund under the Call for Proposals 2010, as well as other additional requirements can be found in Annex 1.

2. Background on the *Call for Proposals 2010*

2.1 Thematic Focus

The main focus and scope of projects to be funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund through the Call for Proposals 2010 will be to help ensure sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through a targeted set of high impact activities on the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

This focus responds to the widespread agreement that one of the areas of greatest concern currently confronting agriculture is how to ensure sustainable food security in the face of climate change. The Declaration of the 2009 *World Summit on Food Security* states:

*"Climate change poses additional severe risks to food security and the agriculture sector. Its expected impact is particularly fraught with danger for smallholder farmers in developing countries, notably the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and for already vulnerable populations. Any recipe for confronting the challenges of climate change must allow for mitigation options and a firm commitment to the adaptation of agriculture, including through conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture."*²⁶

2.2 Priorities

²⁶ <ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/Meeting/018/k6050e.pdf>

In order to achieve a meaningful and significant impact through the Benefit-sharing Fund, the *Call for Proposals 2010* will concentrate on the first priority area of the Governing Body (information exchange, technology transfer and capacity-building) and on three inter-related activities to address the other two priority areas of the Governing Body: on-farm conservation and management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; participatory plant breeding; and, the distribution of appropriate seed and planting materials.

Information Exchange, Technology Transfer and Capacity Building

The *Call for Proposals 2010* of the Benefit-sharing Fund will support activities to strengthen the information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building for the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to help farmers achieve food security in the face of climate change. Thus support in this area would not necessarily be limited only to the priority areas discussed below. However, such activities would in general be included within larger projects having an overall focus on the priority areas discussed below, and would link, as appropriate to other activities within the project concerned.

A critical area for support is the strengthening of the institutional environment. It is essential that national programmes have the capacity and appropriate supporting policies to enable them to assess their future germplasm needs with respect to climate change, and are able to access, develop or disseminate the required plant genetic materials.

Priority will be given to activities aimed at making sure appropriate capacity is in place and that institutions are able to operate within a favourable policy framework. The latter might include, for example, helping to ensure that issues relating to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are included within relevant national programmes and strategies for climate change adaptation.

Awareness by policy makers and the general public of the importance of climate change and its predicted impact on agriculture and food security is lacking in many countries. Much greater efforts are needed to provide information on the issues involved and what needs to be done to enable agriculture to adapt. Efforts will be supported to provide such information, particularly regarding the threat posed to crop diversity and its critical importance in helping agriculture to adapt to climate change.

Other areas that might be considered could include, for example:

- Improved information systems to ensure that timely and accurate information, including local and indigenous knowledge, is readily available on the genetic resources themselves, the traits they possess and how to access and use them;
- Building institutional capacity to monitor, analyze and predict the effects of climate change on agricultural systems, and to provide local communities, national governments and others with appropriate technical and policy advice on genetic resources management;
- Building capacity and associated technology transfer with respect to in situ conservation and the use of crop wild relatives;
- Building capacity and associated technology transfer in plant breeding, especially in

collaboration with Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building.²⁷

Managing and Conserving Plant Genetic Resources on farm:

Strengthening systems for the on-farm conservation and management of genetic diversity is one measure to reduce farmers' vulnerability to climate change. In this respect, farmers, as managers of genetic diversity, have much to offer both their own communities and the world more generally as a result of their efforts to conserve plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, improve it through breeding and selection and through making it available for use by others.

A range of activities in this area will be supported including, *inter alia*: the on-farm evaluation, selection and management of local and introduced genetic diversity (including new, improved varieties bred by professional plant breeders); farmer breeding and selection activities; ensuring the conservation of any genetic diversity that might otherwise be lost as a result of introduction and breeding efforts, (e.g. through conservation in national or international genebanks or the development of local and community genebanks); conserving and making available local and indigenous knowledge; developing outlets for local crops and varieties; adding value to local crops and varieties; and linking farmers with communities elsewhere nationally, regionally and internationally to promote the sharing of material and information relating to climate change.

Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources:

The joint efforts of professional breeders and farmers in improving crops that are important to resource-poor farmers, or have the potential to become important under future climate scenarios, is an activity that accords well both the second and third priorities of the Governing Body. Such joint efforts, commonly referred to as participatory plant breeding, should focus on the breeding and selection of varieties with traits that are particularly important for helping farmers adapt to the negative impact of the climate change, e.g. resistance to, or tolerance of heat, drought, water-logging, salinity, or predicted new pests and diseases. While the focus of any such effort would be on-farm, it is critical that a) there be adequate scientific and technical back-up and support, including for such activities as pre-breeding and broadening the genetic base; b) that efficient and effective systems be in place for accessing and disseminating materials nationally and internationally under the International Treaty; and c) that future environmental conditions be predicted as accurately as possible.²⁸

Improved varieties, however bred, are of no value unless they can be widely disseminated and are actually grown by farmers. Such dissemination may occur through formal and informal channels and both will become more important over time as the effects of climate change cause the geographical location of ecosystems to shift. Varieties that are adapted to one location are likely to find themselves adapted to quite another geographic area a few years hence. Strengthening the

²⁷ The Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB) is an initiative of FAO that aims to enhance the capacity of developing countries to improve crops for food security and sustainable development, through better plant breeding and delivery systems. <http://km.fao.org/gipb/>

²⁸ While recognizing that all climate prediction is subject to a large degree of uncertainty, especially at smaller scales, predictions could be made, for example by including within projects the downscaling of global climate change models onto the targeted regions and crops. This could help the Benefit-sharing Fund to focus its interventions on regions of likely high-impact and important and potentially important crops. It would also help in the identification and linking of homologous agro-ecological zones, i.e. linking target areas with other areas that today have a climate and other environmental conditions that are similar to those predicted for the target areas themselves in the future.

production and delivery systems for seed and other planting material will be required by farmers in order to adapt their farming systems to climate change. This might be achieved through, *inter alia*, supporting the efforts of public or private seed companies, as well as other, often less formal, arrangements for disseminating varieties directly among farmers themselves. In supporting such systems, it will be important to ensure that appropriate measures are in place for conserving any material that might be replaced by the new varieties. In order to achieve focus, any support for the dissemination of seed and planting material should ideally be linked to plant improvement or on-farm activities that are funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund.

2.3 Expected funds

The expected funding available for the *Call for proposals 2010* is 10 US\$ million.

2.4 Applicants

Any governmental or non-governmental organization, including farmers and farmers' organizations, genebanks and research institutions and regional and international organizations, based in countries that are Contracting Parties to the International Treaty, may apply for grants under the Benefit-sharing Fund.

The list of Contracting Parties eligible to apply for support is included in Annex 2.

2.5 Submissions

All applications to the two windows of the call must be submitted through the national authorities of an eligible Contracting Party of the International, i.e. through the National Focal Points or through the Permanent Representatives to FAO. The list of National Focal Points and Permanent Representatives to FAO of eligible Contracting Parties is included in Annex 3.

Applicants must fill in the Submission Form for pre-proposals in Annex 4.

Applications must be sent by the national authorities of eligible Contracting Parties to the Secretariat of the Treaty at PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org or by fax (39) 0657056347.

2.6 Deadline

The Governing Body awards grants on a biennial cycle. Applicants seeking grants for any of the windows of this call can submit their pre-proposals by **28 August 2010**.

2.7 Overview of project cycle

Information on the procedure following the submission of pre-proposals and relevant datelines are included in Annex 5.

3 Windows of the *Call for Proposals 2010*

3.1 Window 1: Development of Strategic Action Plans

Rationale

Plant genetic diversity is the single most important resource in adapting crops to rapidly changing agro-ecological conditions, and changing pest and disease patterns. Managing and sustainably deploying this resource must be a key part of any response to climate change in food and agriculture.

Climate change risks undermining the food security of many of the world's poorest farming communities. Increased understanding of the substantial threat that climate change poses to developing country farmers, and to global food security, has not been met with an equally increased understanding of how they can adapt to these changes, especially through the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The role of plant genetic resources in adapting to climate change needs to be addressed strategically, and through advanced planning that articulates and structures practical and effective action plans and policy responses. This will require the development of a consensus on priorities within a wide stakeholder community, and the progressive build-up of skills, knowledge and information bases and technologies.

Priorities established and agreed by representative groups, through strategic planning, can help direct the investments of the Benefit-sharing Fund most effectively, and can attract national and international resources to practical actions, both immediate and longer term, to ensure that climate change does not overwhelm farmers' ability to adapt.

On the basis of identified key needs and priorities, farmers and the plant genetic resources community will be able to contribute to, and benefit from, programmes for adaptation to climate change. In this way, national and international resources can be mobilised to effectively and sustainably support the progressive development and implementation of effective adaptation measures in developing country agriculture.

Scope

The *Call for Proposals 2010* will support the development of strategic action plans for climate change adaptation of key food crops. This first phase of strategy development should support a variety of approaches to the management of plant genetic resources in adapting to the effects of climate change. Strategic action plans should set out clear priorities and action plans on a regional, sub-regional, eco-regional, or other basis.

For example, strategic action plans could focus on agro-ecological zones, such as the marginal dry lands of the sub-Saharan Africa region, Southern Africa, tropical mountain areas, or Asian flood plains and coastal sealine areas all areas where the Fourth Assessment Report of the

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted major disruptions will occur due to climate change. Strategic action plans might also be formulated on the basis of specific crops or crop group (cereals, food legumes, vegetables, etc). It is recommended that target crops for these strategies should not be limited just to those that are included within the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing of the International Treaty, but linkages could be established in the strategies with the functioning of the Multilateral System. For example, the financing received for the proposed projects might be related to, or combined with, the exchange and receipt of climate-ready germplasm under the SMTAs of the Multilateral System or to the transfer of adaptation technologies and exchange of scientific information through the non-commercial benefit-sharing mechanisms of the Multilateral System of the Treaty. In some cases, strategic action plans might lead to an integrated package of inputs provided by the International Treaty for climate change adaptation of the key food crops: climate-ready seeds, adaptation technology and know-how, and focused adaptation financing for farmers and other agricultural stakeholders.

The strategic action plans should aim to identify information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building activities to cover all areas relating to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture in the face of climate change. They should make clear how the proposed areas of activity would contribute to assisting farmers in developing countries to adapt to climate change and achieve sustainable food security. The action plans should establish clear priorities, targets and where possible milestones and they should cover a long enough period for these targets to be realistically met, ideally 6 to 10 years.

The strategic action plans should therefore not only include on-farm conservation and management, participatory plant breeding and the dissemination of seed and other planting material, but also include plant breeding, including base broadening, pre-breeding, the introgression of genes from wild species, etc; collecting and *ex situ* conservation, especially by reference to the Strategic Plans sponsored by the Global Crop Diversity Trust;²⁹ the *in situ* conservation of wild relatives, etc. This comprehensive approach is in line with the first adopted priority of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

Strategic action plans should be developed and implemented through existing national, regional and international institutions, including effective networks, or even preferably through the creation of new consortia or other multi-stakeholder groupings.

Ideally the strategic action plans would be integrated or coordinated with broader global, regional or national strategies and action plans for food security and climate change and be implemented as part of a broader policy framework, to leverage synergies in both action and financial resources.

The strategic action plans should play an important and catalytic role in guiding funding priorities of the Benefit-sharing Fund, beyond just the next two funding cycles, and, of other multilateral funds, bodies and mechanisms.

Expected outputs

²⁹ For more information on the regional and crop conservation strategies sponsored by the Global Crop Diversity Trust see: <http://www.croptrust.org/main/identifyingneed.php?itemid=514>

Individual strategies might cover, but not be limited to, the following areas relating to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change:

- Analyses of likely future climate scenarios for particular agro-ecological zones, including, through the downscaling of climate change models, an identification of those area where food and nutritional security are most fragile;
- Analyses of the probable consequences of climate change for the farming systems, food security and plant genetic resources of different target groups in these zones, especially the most vulnerable communities. Other ecosystem services provided by agriculture and that are related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture should also be taken into account;
- The setting out of existing baseline data and identifying areas in which additional baseline data will need to be collected through project activities to implement the strategy;
- The identification of analogues – regions experiencing similar conditions at present to those expected to occur in the target region in future. The possibility and desirability of developing partnership arrangements with institutions in such analogous agroecological zones should be explored;
- Studies of existing national, regional and international development plans and activities relevant to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to assist farmers to adapt to climate change;
- Identification of the main crops on which to focus³⁰;
- Strategies for the conservation of local crop varieties and crop wild relatives, especially taking into account the replacement of existing diversity through the actions of the project itself;³¹
- Strategies for the genetic improvement of the key crops identified, including through participatory breeding methods, to develop varieties that are adapted to the new environments that are expected to result from climate change
- Strategies for the dissemination of seed and other planting material of improved varieties;
- Evaluation of the need for new policies, regulations, *etc.* and strategies for developing and implementing appropriate policy and regulatory changes relating to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture;
- The identification of key local, national regional and international institutions to be involved in implementing the strategy, and their needs for strengthening or creating new institutional capacity, partnerships and coordination mechanisms; and
- Mechanisms for keeping the strategies under review and for updating them as needed.

Expected size of projects

The Call for Proposals 2010 will devote sufficient resources to a major planning exercise to lay the foundation for the rational and effective allocation of resources in the following and subsequent funding cycles.

In order to achieve this desired planning base, project size shall be between US\$ 200,000 and US\$ 400,000.

³⁰ It is recommended that target crops for these strategies should not be limited just to those that are included within the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit Sharing of the International Treaty.

³¹ Elements within the strategies that are concerned with conservation strategies should focus primarily on *in situ* and on-farm conservation, and showing how they link to and complement the *ex situ* conservation strategies supported by the Global Crop Diversity Trust (<http://www.croptrust.org/main/identifyingneed.php>)

Duration of projects

These projects shall run for a maximum of one year in order for the strategies developed through them to be available to guide the following *Call for Proposals 2012*.

Criteria for the screening of pre-proposals

Only full completed Pre-proposal Forms will be screened. In addition to the eligibility criteria adopted by the Governing Body (see Annex 1), pre-proposals will be screened according to the following criteria:

- Geographic extension
 - address the adverse impacts of, and risks posed by, climate change to particularly vulnerable farming communities, ideally in more than one Contracting Party country;
 - support the integration of plant genetic resources components into sub-regional, eco-regional, national or regional action plans for adapting to climate change;
- Project relevance
 - identify the problem, the information that needs to be gathered or generated, and the methodologies that will be used to identify and prioritize adaptation responses³²;
 - inclusion of clear priorities, targets and milestones to assist farmers in developing countries to adapt to climate change and achieve sustainable food security;
- Collaboration and partnerships
 - identify a coherent and representative group of institutions (a ‘consortium’) that will implement the project, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities;
 - identify actual and potential additional funds from other funding sources;
- Beneficiaries
 - specify, whenever possible, the farmers or farming communities that are expected to benefit from the proposed project in their food security and their adaptation to climate change. Target beneficiaries may be defined, for example, by specific climate threat, specific farming system or agro-ecosystem, or a coherent regional or sub-regional grouping. The more the number of farmers or farming communities that benefit from the proposed project can be specified, the better.

3.1 Window 2: Immediate action projects

Rationale

It is important to demonstrate the value that plant genetic resources for food and agriculture have for farmers to meet food security and face climate change. Climate change is already a serious challenge and it is likely to happen more quickly than was ever expected. With it comes a decrease in food security in many countries, less predictable crop harvests, and more adverse agroecological conditions for farming. Climate change is undermining rural development and increasing the burdens on most

³² Reference may be made, for example, to information in the *Fourth IPCC Assessment Report* and the *Second Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

vulnerable farming communities, who are often hardest hit by extreme weather events, such as floods or droughts, and by changes in timing and duration of growing seasons.

Managing and sustainably deploying plant genetic diversity plays a key role in adapting farming to climate change. Increased attention and support is needed to ensure food security by supporting farmers to adapt to climate change through the management of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Such support needs to be consistent with national strategies and priorities and rely on existing scientific and policy back-up.

Scope

The Call for Proposals 2010 will help ensure sustainable food security by assisting farmers to adapt to climate change through a portfolio of immediate action projects for managing and conserving plant genetic resources on farm and for the sustainable use of plant genetic resources, as described in section 2.2. Overall support to activities for information exchange, technology transfer and capacity building will in general be included within large and integrated projects focusing on the priorities above mentioned.

Expected size of projects

The cost of immediate action projects would not exceed USD 300,000.

Duration

Immediate Action projects shall run for a maximum of two years.

Criteria for the screening of pre-proposals

Only full completed Pre-proposal Forms will be screened. In addition to the eligibility criteria adopted by the Governing Body (see Annex 1), pre-proposals will be screened according to the following criteria:

- Immediate impact
 - projects must have the potential for a short-term impact;
 - have an adequate size to have a significant impact;
- Projects must respond to a clear priority need, as expressed through already existing strategies or plans;
- Projects must be country driven and demonstrate a clear engagement with, and participation by relevant stakeholders;
- Projects must identify actual and potential additional funds from other funding sources, whether national or international, that share similar or complementary objectives.

ANNEX 2

ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION CRITERIA AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**³³

Projects financed by the Benefit-sharing Fund must:

1. Meet the objectives of the International Treaty.
2. Fall within the priorities that will, from time to time, be established by the Governing Body.
3. Benefit Contracting Parties that are developing countries.
4. Be presented through the Contracting Party or Parties concerned.

SELECTION CRITERIA³⁴

1. Project relevance.
 - a. Are the priorities of the Funding Strategy and the strategic principles and priorities established by the Governing Body for the allocation of funds at its disposal clearly incorporated and represented in the proposed goals and expected outputs of the proposal?
 - b. Is the project contributing to a rational global conservation system? Is the project contributing to the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goals 1 and 7?
 - c. What is the relevance of the project to a country's or region's priorities in its plans and programmes for PGRFA? What information is available on such priorities?
 - d. Does the project duplicate activities already carried out or underway? Does the project complement activities already carried out or underway?
2. Feasibility
 - a. Is the proposed activity feasible in terms of resources and timing? In particular, is the budget adequate to fully cover the proposed activities and produce the expected results?
3. Effectiveness and efficiency
 - a. Are the anticipated project costs warranted against the expected project results and benefits?
 - b. Are the types of activities most effective towards achieving the project's net results, its outcome and impact?
4. Benefits and beneficiaries.

³³ *Funding Strategy for the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Annex 2.*

³⁴ *Funding Strategy for the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Annex 3.*

- a. Who are the immediate beneficiaries?
- b. Will the results of the proposed project, directly or indirectly, reach the proposed beneficiaries?
- c. What is the potential contribution of the project to economic development?
5. Team composition and capacity.
 - a. Can the capacity of the team be considered sufficient? Does the team include partners with different disciplines?
 - b. Does the project proposal foresee use of available local expertise?
6. Collaboration.
 - a. What is the extent of collaboration promoted by the project proposal?
 - b. How does this collaboration contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the project?
 - c. Is there counterpart funding or input in kind by the applicant?
7. Planning and Monitoring.
 - a. Have proper milestones and indicators been incorporated in the project proposal?
 - b. Does the proposal indicate how project progress will be monitored and its impact assessed?
 - c. To what extent is the expected positive impact measurable?
8. Sustainability.
 - a. How sustainable are the activities and beneficial changes introduced by the project?
 - b. Is technology transfer and capacity building realized?
 - c. Has a training component been incorporated?
9. Geographic extension.
 - a. How wide is the geographic scope and impact of the proposed project?
 - b. What is the global and/or regional importance of the project in achieving the objectives of the Treaty?
10. Crop relevance.
 - a. What is the contribution of the crop or crops, for which activities are proposed, to global or regional food security and sustainable utilization?
 - b. What is the relevance of the crop or crops, for which activities are proposed, to the quality and diversity of the human diet or animal feed?
 - c. What is the contribution of the proposed project to conservation and utilization of the crop's or crops' gene pool?
 - d. Is the project addressing the conservation and/or utilization of a crop in one of its centres of diversity?
 - e. To what extent is the gene pool covered by the proposed project activities threatened at a national, regional or global level

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

At its Third Session, the Governing Body of the International Treaty decided the following:

1. plant genetic resources for food and agriculture listed in Annex 1 of the International Treaty resulting from projects funded by the Benefit-sharing Fund shall be made available according to the terms and conditions of the Multilateral System; and,
2. information generated by projects funded through the Benefit-sharing Fund shall be made publicly available within 1 year of the completion of the project.

ANNEX 3: LIST OF COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR SUPPORT UNDER THE
BENEFIT-SHARING FUND

ANNEX 4: LIST OF NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
TO FAO OF ELIGIBLE CONTRACTING PARTIES

ANNEX 5: PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

ANNEX 6: OVERVIEW OF PROJECT CYCLE