

Name of the Partnership/Initiative: The Global Conservation Trust

Date of initiation: June 2001

Expected date of completion: December 2004

Partners Involved:

Governments: Brazil, Colombia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America

Intergovernmental organizations: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

Major groups: The Private Sector (Syngenta, Glaxo)

Other: United Nations Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Imperial College, London, the Eden Project

Leading Partner:

Name of the contact person/focal point: Ruth Raymond

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Main objectives of the Partnership/Initiative

Please provide a brief description:

The Global Conservation Trust is a public-private partnership whose goal is to establish an endowment fund that will provide a permanent source of funding for *ex situ* conservation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture around the world.

The goal of the Trust is also to assure the availability of genetic material that underpins the global food supply to all researchers and scientists in perpetuity. The Trust will permit international institutions and governments to keep three promises:

- In 1994, the International Agricultural Research Centres of the CGIAR made a commitment to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to hold the plant genetic resources collections housed in the Centres in trust for humanity;
- In 1996, 150 countries adopted the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, pledging to develop and support a rational system of *ex situ* genetic resources conservation;
- In 2001, 140 countries adopted the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, a promise to promote the development of an efficient and equitable global system of genetic resources exchange.

Please also provide a brief description of the relationship of the Partnership/Initiative with the objectives of Agenda 21 as well as relevant goals and objectives of the United Nation Millennium Declaration:

The Global Conservation Trust relates directly to Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 and the objective to conserve and use plant genetic resources for food and sustainable agriculture. It also relates to Chapter 15 in seeking to ensure conservation of that aspect of biological diversity – plant genetic diversity – that is a cornerstone of agricultural research and a doorway to development.

The Trust relates directly to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger, and to Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability. The Trust recognizes that a vital and healthy agricultural system has an essential role to play in maintaining peace and stability in addition to its more traditionally understood roles in food security, nutrition and health, and economic development.

Expected results:

Please provide a brief description:

The \$260 million endowment will provide a permanent source of funds to cover the costs of maintaining and making available genetic resources in collections that meet eligibility principles and internationally agreed standards of management and will provide technical and capacity building support to collections meeting eligibility principles and progressing towards a verifiable plan to meet internationally agreed standards of management.

Specific targets of the Partnership/Initiative and timeframe for their achievement:

The Campaign for the Global Conservation Trust is an historic and unprecedented partnership of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the 16 Future Harvest Centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research. Its specific targets are:

29 August 2002: Launch of the Trust at Johannesburg

December 2002: \$100 in commitments secured

December 2003: \$160 in commitments secured and Trust begins disbursement

December 2004: Total commitments secured

Coordination and Implementation mechanism

Please provide a brief description of expected coordination/implementation mechanism of the Partnership/Initiative.

A Board of Trustees will be established. The Trustees will appoint an international panel of experts that will review applications for both sustainability and capacity-building financing for genetic resources collections, and pass along their recommendations to the Board of Trustees, a body comprising donors of both funds and germplasm. The Trustees will appoint an Advisory Council to provide a forum to mobilize support for the Trust, and consult with a wide range of stakeholders. The holder of the funds, the United Nations Foundation, will then disburse grants accordingly.

Arrangements for funding

Please describe available and/or expected sources of funding for the implementation of the Partnership/Initiative (e.g. donor government(s); international organization(s)/financial institution(s); foundation(s); private sector; other major groups, etc.)

Funding sources include national governments, trusts/foundations, and corporations. In addition, international organizations such as the World Bank and Global Environment Facility are expected to provide support to particular collections.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer

Please include information if the Partnership/Initiative provides for training, informational support, institutional strengthening and/or other capacity building measures:

The Global Conservation Trust will manage a **Capacity Building Fund** that will award short-term grants for training, technical assistance and institution strengthening to projects and

programmes of *ex situ* genetic resources collections that are progressing towards a verifiable plan to meet international criteria and standards of conservation, documentation and distribution, within a rational global system of *ex situ* conservation and exchange. The Trust will support strategic partnerships with NGOs and universities in building a rational global genebank system.

Please also provide here a brief description of expected arrangements for technology transfer (if applicable).

Grants from the Capacity Building Fund would support the transfer of technologies for genetic resources conservation and information management.

Links of Partnership/Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and/or regional level (if any)

Please provide a brief description: The initiative links with genetic resources activities underway through FAO and the Future Harvest Centres supported by the CGIAR, and the with the efforts of countries and international institutions to implement the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Monitoring Arrangements

Please describe expected arrangements for monitoring of progress in the implementation of Partnerships/Initiative after it will be launched at the WSSD:

(e.g. frequency/modalities of preparation of progress reports; electronic updates, news-letters, etc)

Grantees must submit technical progress reports and financial reports annually. The Trust organization will produce annual reports as well for circulation to all stakeholders, including the FAO Commission. The United Nations Foundation as fiduciary for the Global Conservation Trust submits financial reports to the Board of the Trust. During the current campaign phase of the Trust, monthly update newsletters are being sent to all stakeholders.

Other relevant information:

Web-site (if available):

Name and contact information of the person filling in this table:

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