

DEVELOPING A GLOBALLY STANDARDIZED LIST OF DESCRIPTORS FOR THE DOCUMENTATION OF *IN SITU* CROP WILD RELATIVES

A lack of data and information exchange on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA) affects the conservation and use of these Resources, as well as the ability of stakeholders to monitor and report on them. The dearth of data on PGRFA exists owing to differing approaches to data management across countries and regions, which has resulted in a lack of coherence and gaps in documentation methods, particularly for *in situ* Crop Wild Relatives (CWR). To preserve CWR, which are used to develop new varieties that are more resistant to the effects of climate change and can therefore enhance food supplies, a standardized CWR documentation system is required. This was identified as a priority action of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), under Article 5 and under the Programme of Work on the Global Information System (PoW GLIS) of Article 17.

This project took the Core Descriptors for *in situ* conservation of CWR v.1 published by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT as its starting point, and aimed to enhance capacities, develop national inventories, foster collaboration and ensure standardized CWR documentation practices in 11 countries.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

The project was implemented in three phases. Under the first phase, a standard for documenting CWR was produced to support global consistency and harmonization in documentation. A strategic shortlist of CWR *in situ* documentation descriptors was approved at a consultation that the project organized, which hosted 107 experts from 80 institutions representing 48 countries, as well as international experts who had been selected for the project's Core Advisory Group (CAG).

Under the second phase, the validated descriptors were tested to support the establishment of databases on *in situ* CWR in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Asia. Further support for the development of the databases was provided under phase three, which included the updating and promotion of the global descriptors, and the development of a module on CWR documentation in the Global Information System on PGRFA (GLIS) Portal to foster access to and availability of CWR documentation information.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 691 402

Duration
June 2019–June 2023

Resource Partners
Federal Government of Germany–
German Ministry of Food and
Agriculture (BMEL)

Partners

Beneficiaries
National focal points of the
International Treaty on Plant
Genetic Resources for Food and
Agriculture (ITPGRFA); researchers;
plant breeders; and conservationists
worldwide

IMPACT

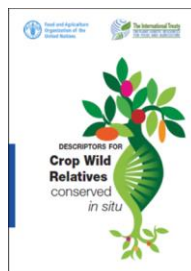
The project supported the normalization of *in situ* CWR documentation at global level through the standardization of documentation methods. It is expected that these efforts will contribute to the enhanced conservation and use of CWR.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACTIVITIES

- After assessing the status of CWR documentation in different regions, specific interventions, which included the provision of guidance, resources and technical assistance, were implemented for the effective planning and development of national CWR inventories.
- Technical staff and decision-makers were trained and provided with legal guidance on effective documentation and navigating its legal aspects.
- The project published a white paper entitled “Towards a strategic approach to the development and implementation of national databases of CWR”.
- Outreach activities for policymakers were carried out to garner their support for the alignment of national documentation efforts.
- Work was done to gather information through desk studies and communication with experts, national focal points and authorities.
- Collaboration was fostered with PGRFA networks and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).



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Project Title

Development of a globally agreed list of descriptors for *in situ* Crop Wild Relatives' Documentation

Project Code

FAO: GCP/GLO/974/GER

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