

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 5:22 PM
To: Bretting, Peter
Cc: Wiersema, John; Volk, Gayle; Richards, Chris; Greene, Stephanie; Jeremy Cherfas
Subject: Re: CWR project communications survey

Ok, great!

Hannes

Am Donnerstag, 5. Februar 2015 schrieb Bretting, Peter :

Hi Hannes—the survey monkey just worked fine. Thanks for fixing the problem!

Peter

Peter Bretting

USDA/ARS Office of National Programs

Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705-5139

Phone 1.301.504.5541

Fax 1.301.504.6191

Mobile Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Hannes Dempewolf [mailto:hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org]

Sent: Thursday, February 05, 2015 1:37 PM

To: Bretting, Peter; Wiersema, John; Volk, Gayle; Richards, Chris; Greene, Stephanie
Cc: Jeremy Cherfas
Subject: CWR project communications survey

Dear Peter, John, Gayle, Chris and Stephanie,

We have engaged a communications company, called Green Ink, to help us to develop a communications strategy for the Crop Wild Relatives Project. As part of this, we are conducting an online survey, and we would be very grateful if you would take a few minutes of your time to take part.

You can find the survey at [REDACTED] It would be great if you could complete the survey by Friday 13 February.

We would like to thank you in advance for taking part and would appreciate it if you could send me a short note once you have completed the survey.

Your results will be very helpful as we build our communications strategy. Please feel free to pass on the survey to others who you think may be interested to participate.

If you have any questions about the survey or would like to share any additional thoughts, please send them to [REDACTED]

With kind regards,
Hannes

Hannes Dempewolf
Scientist and Project Manager
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
Office: +49 228 85427 115
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.croptrust.org

Securing our Food, Forever

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

--

Hannes Dempewolf
Scientist and Project Manager
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
Office: +49 228 85427 115
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.croptrust.org

Securing our Food, Forever

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Richards, Chris
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Bretting, Peter
Subject: More DivSeek press

<http://foodtank.com/news/2015/01/international-partnership-creating-biodiversity-database>

Never heard of this blog before....but it's a different audience than Science for sure..

C:

Christopher Richards, Ph.D.

Population Geneticist

United States Department of Agriculture

National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation

Colorado State University

1111 South Mason Street

Fort Collins, CO 80521

USA

Chris.richards@colostate.edu

970 495 3201

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=42033>

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9978-6079>

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Richards, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 12:54 PM
To: Bretting, Peter
Subject: RE: Nature Genetics endorses DivSeek Initiative

Thanks!

Sensible take on this emerging opportunity for integration. Do you have data that correlates number of requests for an accession with data abundance on that accession? I'll bet it's a positive slope. With this initiative, perhaps requests will come in for materials previously rarely requested.

Glad to see this formally endorsed.

Cheers,
Chris

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2015 10:44 AM
To: Richards, Chris; Ware, Doreen; Volk, Gayle
Subject: Nature Genetics endorses DivSeek Initiative

FYI,

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 2:03 PM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: RE: USDA Attribution and credit

Hi Chris—see my comments, intercalated below,

Thanks for your thoughts!

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Richards, Chris
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 11:52 AM
To: Bretting, Peter
Subject: RE: USDA Attribution and credit

Dear Peter-

Flattery aside (and I agree completely) it's clear DivSeek needs the USDA's expertise and ideas...any one of the short CG presentations during the afternoon's technical meeting could have been given by many excellent USDA projects in genomic characterization of collections and data management. The NSF's iPlant presentation was the high point for me.

Actually, ARS staff would have delivered superior presentations compared to those from the CG Centers. They were quite disappointing (I'm not the only one who thought so). Basically "Here's our wonderful work, give us some money!" rather than "We have this compelling idea for how to accelerate progress for the entire community!" But the CG Centers have plenty of \$\$ now. Yes, I thought that Laura Cooper's (OSU) and the iPlant presentation were high points.

The benefit of the USDA is to be at the table and to engage in the collaborative creation of this ambitious project...not for the promise of financing of projects (we will never see a dime) but for the PR that actively demonstrates our global leadership in our Agency's mission. That's the impact payoff...something our stakeholders are made aware of as they go to bat for us in Congress. Without it, we sink ever further below the radar. The result is we appear to cede mission passively...like when we had senate staffers coming out to find out if we *had* a gene bank after hearing about the Doomsday Vault in Svalbard!

Exactly, and that's why I'm most pleased that ARS can likely participate in DivSeek (presuming that the charter we adopted remains unchanged). It will enable us to influence the scientific agenda of institutions internationally, and hopefully elevate the Agency's profile.

Not sure why we are in this (shadowy) position vis à vis the GCDT especially since their stated aim is to develop a *unified* front. The other article in that issue of Science about the DivSeek meeting emphasized the 15 CG sites to the exclusions of all others. The combined ARS research capacity is, in fact, the 800lb gorilla sitting in the room (mostly) ignored by the European and CGIAR institutions during these sessions. It's been a role that has evolved even as our system distributes so much of the world's PGR (which is always a source of pride for me!). Perhaps it's our difficulty negotiating these complex multilateral treaties like the ITPGRFA? At any rate the NPGS should be squarely at the forefront of these kinds of initiatives, especially ones that anticipate how it is we staff (the next generation of) curators to utilize the data deluge which is coming. I think it's a pivotal opportunity to develop this capacity in our germplasm system. I think Theo said it best: unless we engage by developing a cadre of folks capable of interpreting these data to serve the needs of curators, they will continue to merely be those nice, dedicated people relegated to working away in the cold basement tending the seeds!

Yes, the heavy emphasis on the CG Centers was a bit disconcerting: I believe that it caused the non-approval of the membership proposed for the Steering Committee. It was just too heavily skewed to the CG Centers. Robbie Waugh handled that rather deftly, I thought.

The GCDT is undergoing a transition, driven by funding needs and other factors. Their funding target is now \$500 million, up from \$250 million, probably driven mainly by the minuscule earnings from interest on investments. The US Senate is responsible for the US donating lots of \$\$ to the Trust via USAID; that sum will likely not increase in the future. So, they need to attract other donors, with Europe probably the most fertile hunting grounds. Add that to the re-location to Bonn, the new European director Marie Haga, and continued strong support from Norway and Germany, and the Trust appears more Euro-centric than during Cary's tenure. That said, we (USAID, USDA) are frequently consulted on key issues, and we continue to wield quite a bit of clout behind the scenes. That was evident from the success of the DivSeek meeting. DivSeek has much potential for magnifying our influence.

These are strictly my opinions here, Peter. I hasten to add that they are quite myopic sitting here in my own cold basement in Fort Collins....!

Not myopic at all. I too loved Theo wry comment about the kind people in basements!

Cheers,
C.

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:01 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: USDA Attribution and credit

Agreed. I might bring this up with some of the GCDT staff, in a cordial manner. Interesting that they are emulating the NPGS by holding PGOC-like annual meetings for the genebanks, establishing Crop Germplasm Committees, etc. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, I guess!

Peter

Peter Bretting
National Program Leader

USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
George Washington Carver Center
4-2212, Mailstop 5139
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
301-504-5541
Cell [REDACTED]
peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

On Jan 21, 2015, at 4:33 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

OK, ISU signed up, so Did Cornell and UGA. My point is at almost every opportunity, the USDA, NPGS never gets a nod from the Crop Trust even though it uses images and video of our facilities. It's a pity.

C.

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: RE: USDA Attribution and credit

Yes, our Info Staff has generated lots of neat photos which are available for free via the web.

ISU has signed the DivSeek Initiative, according to Manjit Misra of their Seed Science Center.

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Richards, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 4:12 PM
To: Bretting, Peter
Subject: USDA Attribution and credit

However it incorrectly identifies ISU as one of the 69 partners in the DivSeek initiative. Neither ISU or NCRPIS is a partner, technically speaking. The USDA is. Science had to have gotten the stock photo from somewhere.

I guess this is really a Crop Trust-CGIAR- ITPGREFA centric initiative right from the start...

Sometimes I feel the USDA in general and the NPGS in particular are used as uncredited staging (photos, video of our gene banks and interviews) to advance this initiative.

Cheers,
C.

From: Bretting, Peter [<mailto:Peter.Bretting@ARS.USDA.GOV>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 11:12 AM
To: pgoc@grin.barc.usda.gov; curators@ars-grin.gov
Subject: Brief article in Science about a new initiative and the value of genebanks

FYI—the brief article in Science includes a photo of “a genebank at Iowa State University.” It’s the USDA/ARS-ISU North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station.

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 6:01 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: USDA Attribution and credit

Agreed. I might bring this up with some of the GCDT staff, in a cordial manner. Interesting that they are emulating the NPGS by holding PGOOC-like annual meetings for the genebanks, establishing Crop Germplasm Committees, etc. Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, I guess!

Peter

Peter Bretting
National Program Leader
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
George Washington Carver Center
4-2212, Mailstop 5139
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
301-504-5541
Cell [REDACTED]
peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

On Jan 21, 2015, at 4:33 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

OK, ISU signed up, so Did Cornell and UGA. My point is at almost every opportunity, the USDA, NPGS never gets a nod from the Crop Trust even though it uses images and video of our facilities. It's a pity.

C.

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Wednesday, January 21, 2015 2:21 PM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: RE: USDA Attribution and credit

Yes, our Info Staff has generated lots of neat photos which are available for free via the web.

ISU has signed the DivSeek Initiative, according to Manjit Misra of their Seed Science Center.

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191

duplicate email trail deleted

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 3:06 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Cc: Peter Wenzl
Subject: Re: DivSeek technical meeting: agenda

Hi Chris,

Information about the partners assembly will be sent out by Danielle later today, I believe. And yes, everyone who is invited to attend the technical meeting is also invited to attend the partners assembly!

Cheers,
Hannes

On Mon, Jan 5, 2015 at 11:35 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

I am endeavoring to change over my flight so I arrive in San Diego on the 8th of January. Thanks for the agenda for the afternoon Technical meeting. What is the schedule and format for the Partners Meeting and are Peter Doreen and I to attend this as well?

Cheers,

Chris

From: Hannes Dempewolf [<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>]
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2015 9:09 AM
To: Info DivSeek
Cc: Peter Wenzl; Daniele Manzella; Francisco Lopez; Ruth Bastow; Powell, Wayne (CGIAR Consortium)
Subject: DivSeek technical meeting: agenda

Dear participants of the DivSeek technical meeting,

As you all know, the DivSeek technical meeting will be held after the Partners assembly in the afternoon of January the 9th and will be an opportunity for some of the projects and initiatives that could be associated with DivSeek to present their work. A further objective is to agree on the best way to engage the DivSeek community to discuss the scope and nature of a common set of standards, data exchange formats as well as guidelines and best practices. The meeting also aims to help the DivSeek community understand where the major gaps are and what may be needed to fill these gaps in the future. Based on the overview and the gap assessment, the meeting will set the priorities for the first DivSeek program of work. Please find attached a

document that describes the agenda, lists the presenters and suggests some possible topics for DivSeek's first program of work at the end.

Here again the logistical details of the technical meeting (which will take place at the same location as the Partners Assembly in the morning):

Time and date: 9.01.2015, 1pm to 6pm

Location: San Diego Hilton Gaslamp District Hotel

The technical meeting will be chaired by Susan McCouch and the rapporteur will be Peter Wenzl.

We wish you all a safe trip to San Diego!

Thanks,

Hannes (on behalf of the DivSeek facilitation unit)

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>
Sent: Friday, January 02, 2015 11:09 AM
To: Info DivSeek
Cc: Peter Wenzl; Daniele Manzella; Francisco Lopez; Ruth Bastow; Powell, Wayne (CGIAR Consortium)
Subject: DivSeek technical meeting: agenda
Attachments: DivSeek Technical Meeting agenda.pdf

Dear participants of the DivSeek technical meeting,

As you all know, the DivSeek technical meeting will be held after the Partners assembly in the afternoon of January the 9th and will be an opportunity for some of the projects and initiatives that could be associated with DivSeek to present their work. A further objective is to agree on the best way to engage the DivSeek community to discuss the scope and nature of a common set of standards, data exchange formats as well as guidelines and best practices. The meeting also aims to help the DivSeek community understand where the major gaps are and what may be needed to fill these gaps in the future. Based on the overview and the gap assessment, the meeting will set the priorities for the first DivSeek program of work. Please find attached a document that describes the agenda, lists the presenters and suggests some possible topics for DivSeek's first program of work at the end.

Here again the logistical details of the technical meeting (which will take place at the same location as the Partners Assembly in the morning):

Time and date: 9.01.2015, 1pm to 6pm
Location: San Diego Hilton Gaslamp District Hotel

The technical meeting will be chaired by Susan McCouch and the rapporteur will be Peter Wenzl.

We wish you all a safe trip to San Diego!

Thanks,
Hannes (on behalf of the DivSeek facilitation unit)



Technical Meeting

Time and date: 9.01.2015, 1pm to 6pm

Location: San Diego Hilton Gaslamp District Hotel

Chair: Susan McCouch

Rapporteur: Peter Wenzl

Background

This meeting will be held after the Partners assembly and will be an opportunity for some of the projects and initiatives that could be associated with DivSeek to present their work. A further objective is to agree on the best way to engage the DivSeek community to discuss the scope and nature of a common set of standards, data exchange formats as well as guidelines and best practices. The meeting also aims to help the DivSeek community understand where the major gaps are and what may be needed to fill these gaps in the future. Based on the overview and the gap assessment, the meeting will set the priorities for the first DivSeek programme of work. Possible topics for DivSeek's first program of work can be found at the end of this document.

In order to allow for a broad set of projects and initiatives to be presented, we have asked the presenters to present short 'lightning talks' using a presentation template. We envisage that each speaker provides a 5 - 10 minute summary presentation on their project/program, aims and objectives, explanation of how data is being collected, described and managed, including (if applicable) what are the underlying database infrastructures, what standards and ontologies are being used and how data will be made available in the long-term. We have also invited an additional set of presenters to provide a few slides about their organization's 'perspective' on DivSeek. Since time is limited, we ask all presenters to please not go beyond 5 to 10 minutes for each presentation.

Agenda

Introduction

Set of key summary presentations on projects as well as cyber-infrastructure solutions, tools and ontologies (5 to 10 minutes each)

Coffee & Tea break

Set of 'perspectives' presentations (5 to 10 minutes each)

Plenary discussion to set priorities for DivSeek's first program of work

Presenters

Presentations on projects:

- IRRI's genebank and the International Rice Informatics Consortium (IRIC) - Ruairaidh Sackville Hamilton
- CIMMYT's Seeds of Discovery project - Kevin Pixley
- ICRISAT's genebank and associated genomics efforts - Rajeev Varshney
- IPK's BRIDGE project - Nils Stein

Presentations on cyber-infrastructure solutions, tools, ontologies:

- Plant Ontology - Laurel Cooper
- James Hutton Institute's GERMINATE platform - David Marshall
- iPlant - Matt Vaughn
- Cornell GOBEE project - Susan McCouch
- EBI and ELIXIR - Paul Kersey

'Perspectives' presentations:

- A national genebank's perspective - Theo van Hintum
- CGIAR consortium office - Wayne Powell
- Funder's perspective 1 - Steve Visscher (BBSRC)
- Funder's perspective 2 - Cindy Bell (Genome Canada)
- 'Institutional and Organizational Factors for Enabling Data Access, Exchange and Use Aims for DivSeek' - Eric Welch/Selim Louafi

Possible topics for DivSeek's first program of work

1. Facilitating the formation of research and data-sharing networks

- Directory of current projects across globe: Who, where, what is the main focus and who is the main funder? GPC is willing to assist with a survey to collect data.
- Social network analysis: How/with whom do researchers in individual projects interact? Final outcome would be a map that visualizes all interactions among researchers and projects.
- Inventory of tools, pipelines, repositories, resources and approaches used in individual projects. This will help the community to reflect on common platforms, well-utilised tools and popular repositories.

2. Working groups and/or white papers to identify and articulate shared community objectives

- Intellectual property (IP), governance and public-private partnerships.
- How could/should DivSeek liaise with breeding programs:
 - Pre-breeding strategies: Discovery, demand-driven or both?
 - Impact pathways and impact quantification.
- How DivSeek could/should affect the way genebanks are managed?
- Genotyping/sequencing platforms and approaches.
- Phenotyping methods and approaches.
- Community-driven (meta)data standards and best practices for big-data sharing & management and systems interoperability:
 - What could be realistic approaches to arrive at such standards?
 - What about 'hackathon'-like events to refine crop/plant ontologies?

3. Training and capacity-building

- Training in popular tools and information platforms resources.
- Workshops in the effective manipulation and interpretation of high-density genome profiles.
- Workshops in field/glasshouse-based high-throughput phenotyping approaches.
- Workshops in IP management.
- Other topics for workshops could include phenotype description and metadata, etc.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Wednesday, December 24, 2014 6:54 AM
To: Richards, Chris; Ware, Doreen; Ware, Doreen
Cc: Buckler, Ed
Subject: FW: Preparations for DivSeek Partners' Assembly - draft Charter
Attachments: 2014 Charter-guidelines-template-en-(1) USG comments.doc

Hi Doreen and Chris—FYI. State Dept. and ARS attorneys reviewed and commented on the draft charter for the DivSeek Initiative. No scientific points, rather all legal items.

See you next year!

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Monday, December 22, 2014 3:24 PM
To: 'Daniele Manzella'; Info DivSeek; Hannes Dempewolf
Subject: RE: Preparations for DivSeek Partners' Assembly - draft Charter

Hello Daniele and Hannes—attached are comments from the US for the draft charter for the DivSeek Initiative. Please acknowledge receipt.

We appreciate your circulating the draft for our review and comment.

With best wishes for Happy Holidays and a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191

Mobile Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Daniele Manzella [mailto:daniele.manzella@divseek.org]

Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 9:36 AM

To: Info DivSeek; Hannes Dempewolf

Subject: Preparations for DivSeek Partners' Assembly - draft Charter

Dear DivSeek Partners,

As anticipated in the invitation to the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly, we are circulating the **draft DivSeek Charter** for your comments, before the Assembly.

Attached to this message, you can find the draft Charter, as developed by the group of experts on governance and legal issues, and a **template** for submitting comments.

In order for comments to be compiled and synthesized before the Assembly, we are asking to get back to us no later than **22 December**.

As private sector organizations will be observers at the first Assembly, the draft Charter is circulated to them for information only.

The agenda of the Assembly will include the appointment of the first **Steering Committee** by the Assembly. The draft Charter foresees eight (8) members, nominated from Partner organizations, preferably from different regions, types of organizations and categories of expertise.

Should your organization be interested in membership to the Steering Committee, we invite you to forward the nomination of a representative of your organization by replying to this message. We will refer the nominations to the Assembly, provided that the group of experts on governance and legal issues may make suggestions, in keeping with the balancing criteria that the draft Charter sets forth.

Information on DivSeek's upcoming Assembly and technical meeting is available on <http://www.divseek.org/meetings/>. On the website, you can also find a new short video explaining the initiative.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the draft Charter and welcoming you to San Diego on the 9th of January.

Kind regards,

Daniele Manzella and Hannes Dempewolf

(on behalf of the Joint Facilitation Unit)



Guidelines and Template for the Review of the Draft DivSeek Charter

I. Background

1. The DivSeek scoping meeting in April 2014 mandated a working group on governance and legal issues to develop the formal governance structure of DivSeek.
2. As advised by the working group, the DivSeek Joint Facilitation Unit circulated a letter calling for non-binding expressions of interest in DivSeek. Organizations that signed the expression of interest, are invited to the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly on 9 January 2015.
3. As anticipated in the letter calling for expressions of interest, the working group has developed a draft Charter setting forth the principles and institutional mechanisms of DivSeek, for consideration and approval by the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly.
4. The draft Charter is circulated before the DivSeek Partners' Assembly for comments. This document provides guidance on submitting comments on the draft Charter.
5. The comments received will be compiled, fully referenced and circulated before the Assembly, together with a synthesis report.
6. The Assembly is exclusively responsible for reviewing and approving the draft Charter. During the Assembly, experts of the working group on governance and legal issues may suggest textual changes to the draft Charter, for the consideration of the Assembly.
7. The text of the draft Charter is provisional and subject to the approval of the Assembly. It shall not be published, displayed, re-transmitted in any manner, quoted or cited in any publication, website or network.

II. Accessing the Draft Charter and Submitting Comments

8. The draft Charter is transmitted together with this document, in a portable document format (PDF).
9. To ensure that your comments are included in the compilation and synthesis report that will be circulated before the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly, please send them by e-mail to daniele.manzella@divseek.org and hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org or by fax at: +39 06570 53057, at your earliest convenience but **no later than 22 December 2014**.
10. When submitting comments, please adhere to the following guidelines as much as possible:
 - a. Please provide all comments in writing and in an MS Word or similar document format using the table provided below.

- b. Please provide full contact information for the individual/organization submitting the comments.
 - c. Please clearly indicate if you are submitting general comments or comments on a specific line of the Charter.
 - d. In areas where you feel additional or alternative text is required, please suggest, if possible, *what this text may look like* or *what should be included*.
 - e. Please avoid commenting on issues related to grammar, spelling, or punctuation, unless it affects the overall meaning of the text, as the Charter will be edited.
 - f. If you refer to additional sources of information, please include these with your comments when possible or provide a complete reference or hyperlink.
11. Should you have any questions regarding the review process, please contact daniele.manzella@divseek.org and hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org.

III. Template for Comments

- 12. Please use the review template below when providing comments.
- 13. The draft Charter is transmitted in PDF. Line and page numbers have been included throughout the document. When making comments, please use these line and page numbers as a reference as illustrated in the table below.
- 14. General comments can be included in the table by referring to Page 0 and Line 0.

		Additional rows can be added to this table by selecting "Table" followed by "insert" and "rows below"
--	--	---

Comments should be sent by e-mail to daniele.manzella@div.seek.org and hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org, or by fax to +39 06570 53057, no later than 22 December 2014.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 9:27 PM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: ITPGRFA - INFORMATION NOTE - First DivSeek Partners Assembly and technical meeting - San Diego, 9 January 2015 - #AGDT

Ok, thanks

Peter

Peter Bretting

USDA/ARS, ONP

GWCC, 4-2212

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville MD 20705

301-504-5541

██████████ mobile

Peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

On Dec 23, 2014, at 5:01 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

Thanks Peter-

I booked three weeks ago and got the government per diem rate....maybe now they just ran out of those rooms! Anyway it's a short walk from the Marriott in clement weather.

Have a wonderful break from work for the holidays with ██████████

See you in January.

Cheers,

Chris

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 2:53 PM
To: Ware, Doreen; Richards, Chris
Cc: Buckler, Ed
Subject: FW: ITPGRFA - INFORMATION NOTE - First DivSeek Partners Assembly and technical meeting - San Diego, 9 January 2015 - #AGDT

Hi Chris and Doreen—I'm forwarding this to ensure that you received the attached logistical information for the DivSeek Initiative meeting on 9 Jan.

Our travel specialist here noted that the lodging rate at the conference hotel Hilton San Diego Gaslamp was about \$80 higher than the Federal government rate for that location in San Diego. When contacted, the Hilton stated that they couldn't honor the Federal government per diem.

Consequently, I'll stay at the Marriott Residence Inn around the block from the Hilton. Here's information about the Marriott, should you wish to consider it:

Residence Inn by Marriott

**356 6th Ave
San Diego, California, 92101
US
619-487-1200**

Rate code GOVA00, \$142.00/night

See you in a few weeks,

Peter

**Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]**

E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: PGRFA-Treaty [<mailto:PGRFA-Treaty@fao.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 6:33 AM

To: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Agropolis; Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics; Australian Plant Phenomics Facility; BBSRC, UK; BGI, China; BGI, China; BGI, China; Bioversity International, France; Bioversity International, France; Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands; Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands; Centre Kasetsart University, Thailand; CGIAR Consortium office; CIMMYT; CIP; Clemson University, USA; Common Reference Ontologies for Plant Biology; Common Reference Ontologies for Plant Biology; Common Reference Ontologies for Plant Biology ; Consiglio per la ricerca e la sperimentazione in agricoltura, Italy; Cornell University, USA; Crops for the Future Research Centre; Du Pont Pioneer, USA; Du Pont Pioneer, USA; EMBRAPA, Brazil; ETH Zurich World Food System Center, Switzerland; European Bioinformatics Institute (EBI), UK; Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany; Genome BC; Genome Canada; Genome Prairie; German Association of Plant Breeders, Germany; Global Crop Diversity Trust; Global Crop Diversity Trust; Global Plant Council; ICARDA; ICRISAT; IITA; INRA, France; Iowa State University, USA; IPK, Germany; IPK, Germany; IPK, Germany; IPK, Germany; IRRI; James Hutton Institute, Scotland, U.K.; James Hutton Institute, Scotland, U.K.; Monsanto, USA; National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan; National Institutes of Genetics, Japan; NordGen; PLANTUM, The Netherlands; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture & Food Innovation, Australia; Queensland Alliance for Agriculture & Food Innovation, Australia; Syngenta, Switzerland; Syngenta, Switzerland; The Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC), United Kingdom; UBC, Canada; UBC, Canada; University of Georgia, USA; University of Saskatchewan, Canada; University of Saskatchewan, Canada; USAID, USA; Richards, Chris; USDA-ARS, USA; Bretting, Peter; Kaleikau, Edward; Parag R. Chitnis; Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Australia; World Vegetable Centre (AVRDC); WorldAgroForestry Center

Cc: Hannes Dempewolf; Peter Wenzl; Bhatti, Shakeel (AGDT); Manzella, Daniele (AGDT); Lopez, Francisco (AGDT); PGRFA-Treaty

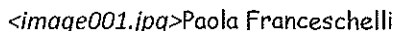
Subject: ITPGRFA - INFORMATION NOTE - First DivSeek Partners Assembly and technical meeting - San Diego, 9 January 2015 - #AGDT

Dear participants in the DivSeek meeting,

Please find attached herewith some information on logistic details on the meeting and venue, including on direct hotel booking (deadline 30th December).

We remain at your disposal should you need additional information.

Best regards,

Paola Franceschelli

Office of the Secretariat of the International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

Tel.: +39 06570 53554

Fax: +39 06570 53057

www.planttreaty.org

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2014 4:53 PM
To: Ware, Doreen; Richards, Chris
Cc: Buckler, Ed
Subject: FW: ITPGRFA - INFORMATION NOTE - First DivSeek Partners Assembly and technical meeting - San Diego, 9 January 2015 - #AGDT
Attachments: Divseek_Information note for participants.pdf

Hi Chris and Doreen—I'm forwarding this to ensure that you received the attached logistical information for the DivSeek Initiative meeting on 9 Jan.

Our travel specialist here noted that the lodging rate at the conference hotel Hilton San Diego Gaslamp was about \$80 higher than the Federal government rate for that location in San Diego. When contacted, the Hilton stated that they couldn't honor the Federal government per diem.

Consequently, I'll stay at the Marriott Residence Inn around the block from the Hilton. Here's information about the Marriott, should you wish to consider it:

Residence Inn by Marriott

356 6th Ave
San Diego, California, 92101
US
619-487-1200

Rate code GOVA00, \$142.00/night

See you in a few weeks,

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541
Fax 1.301.504.6191
Mobile Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

December 2014



First DivSeek Partners Assembly and technical meeting
San Diego, USA, 9 January 2015
Note for Participants

1. Opening

The First DivSeek Partners Assembly and technical meeting will be held in San Diego, California, USA on Friday, 9 January 2015 in the Marina AB Room, at the Hotel Hilton San Diego Gaslamp Quarter

More information is available at: <http://www.divseek.org/> and <http://www.planttreaty.org/content/information-about-divseek-initiative>

2. Venue and Meeting Passes

The meeting will take place in Room Marina AB at the Hotel Hilton Gaslamp located at 401 K Street, San Diego, California, 92101, USA TEL: +1-800-445-8667
<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/hilton-san-diego-gaslamp-quarter-SANGQHF/index.html>

Name tags will be made available at the meeting venue to participants previously registered with the Secretariat.

Local contact, if needed:

Ms Cami Beck, of the hotel management, can directly be contacted at this e-mail address: cbeck@hiltongaslamp.com

3. Transport**DRIVE FROM AIRPORT**

From the Airport, San Diego International-Lindbergh Field

Left on Harbor Drive, left on 5th St. and then a left on K st. The Hotel is on the corner of 4th & K St.

Drive Time: 10 min.

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM AIRPORT :

Type	Typical Minimum Charge
Bus Service	2.00 USD
Super Shuttle	13.00 USD
Rental Car	30.00 USD
Taxi	14.00 USD

MAP

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/california/hilton-san-diego-gaslamp-quarter-SANGQHF/maps-directions/index.html>

4. Hotel information

Participants can book their accommodation at a discount rate through this direct link: http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/S/SANGQHF-DIV-20150105/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

Please note that 30 rooms are in option until 30th December 2014.

5. Entry visas for the United States

Participants who require an entry visa for the USA should have submitted a request to the US Embassy or Consulate in their country of residence as soon as they received the invitation letter to the meeting. Visas are the individual responsibility of travellers.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 16, 2014 12:15 PM
To: Ware, Doreen
Cc: Bretting, Peter; Richards, Chris; Ware, Doreen; Info DivSeek; Daniele Manzella; Bedell, Christy
Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Dear Doreen,

Thanks for letting us know. I have added you now to the list of participants.

Best,
Hannes

On Tue, Dec 16, 2014 at 10:26 AM, Ware, Doreen <ware@cshl.edu> wrote:

Dear Hannes,

Thank you for the invitation. I would have reviewed my schedule and plan to attend.

Best regards,

Doreen

From: <Bretting>, Peter <Peter.Bretting@ARS.USDA.GOV<mailto:Peter.Bretting@ARS.USDA.GOV>>
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 7:38 AM
To: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>>
Cc: "Richards, Chris" <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov<mailto:Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov>>, "Ware, Doreen" <Doreen.Ware@ARS.USDA.GOV<mailto:Doreen.Ware@ARS.USDA.GOV>>, Doreen Ware <ware@cshl.edu<mailto:ware@cshl.edu>>, Info DivSeek <info@divseek.org<mailto:info@divseek.org>>, Daniele Manzella <daniele.manzella@divseek.org<mailto:daniele.manzella@divseek.org>>
Subject: RE: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Thanks, Hannes. Doreen might also want to attend, but her travel plans haven't been finalized yet.

Peter

Peter Bretting
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
Phone 1.301.504.5541

Fax 1.301.504.6191

Mobile Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov<<mailto:peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov>>

Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Hannes Dempewolf [<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>]

Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 7:36 AM

To: Bretting, Peter

Cc: Richards, Chris; Ware, Doreen; Ware, Doreen; Info DivSeek; Daniele Manzella

Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Dear Peter,

Thanks for confirming that you and Chris will be attending the DivSeek meetings in San Diego.

Best wishes,

Hannes

On Mon, Dec 1, 2014 at 8:09 PM, Bretting, Peter

<Peter.Bretting@ars.usda.gov<<mailto:Peter.Bretting@ars.usda.gov>>> wrote:

Thanks for the note, Hannes. USDA/ARS will be represented at the DivSeek meeting by Chris Richards and me. I'll be at the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp District already for the preceding ITPGRFA-COGIS meeting.

See you about a month from now!

Peter

Peter Bretting

USDA/ARS Office of National Programs

Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705-5139

Phone [1.301.504.5541](tel:1.301.504.5541)<<tel:1.301.504.5541>>

Fax [1.301.504.6191](tel:1.301.504.6191)<<tel:1.301.504.6191>>

Mobile Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov<<mailto:peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov>>

Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Hannes Dempewolf [<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org><<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>>]

Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2014 11:16 AM

To: Bretting, Peter

Cc: Richards, Chris; Edward Buckler; Buckler, Ed; Ware, Doreen; Ware, Doreen; Simmons, Kay; Info DivSeek; Daniele Manzella

Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Dear Dr. Peter Bretting and colleagues at USDA ARS,

We are very happy to learn that the USDA ARS is on board with DivSeek and are looking forward to engaging with you on the further development of the initiative. We are aware of some further ongoing deliberations between USDA ARS and the Treaty secretariat with regards to the Treaty reference in the document.

We have received an overwhelming number of 67 expressions of interests, which we take as a clear testament to the importance and timeliness of the DivSeek initiative! Please find below a list of institutions that have expressed their interest. We are also still pursuing participation by a few additional institutions and representative bodies from both the public and private sectors.

We are also happy to report that several private sector entities have expressed their interest in the DivSeek initiative (see below). The interface of any public/private partnership, such as DivSeek, requires a clear framework and rules of engagement for both public and private partners. We propose that the development of such a framework form part of the first DivSeek program of work and are looking forward to engaging with the private sector in this exercise. In the meanwhile, we will invite representatives of the private sector to attend the partners assembly in an observer role.

Please find attached a formal invitation letter to the first DivSeek Partner Assembly and technical meeting, which will both take place on Friday, the 9th of January 2015 at the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp District Hotel in San Diego, USA. As indicated in the attached letter, please let us know before December 3rd, who will be attending on behalf of the USDA (please email to: info@divseek.org<<mailto:info@divseek.org>>).

With kind regards and on behalf of the joint facilitation unit,
Hannes Dempewolf

Public

1

AfricaRice

2

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

3

Agropolis Resource Center for Crop Conservation, Adaptation and Diversity

4

Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics

5

Australian National University

6

Australian Plant Phenomics Facility

7

Australian Society of Plant Scientists

8

AVRDC

9

BBSRC, United Kingdom

10

BGI, China

11

Biosciences Eastern and Central Africa (BecA) Hub

12

Bioversity International

13

CATIE

14

Centre for Genetic Resources, the Netherlands

15

CGIAR Consortium Office

16

CIAT

17

CIMMYT

18

CIP

19

CIRAD, France

20

Clemson University

21	Common Reference Ontologies for Plant Biology (cROP)
22	Consiglio per la ricerca e la sperimentazione in agricoltura, Italy
23	Cornell University
24	Crops for the Future Research Centre
25	Dalhousie University
26	Department of Biology Agriculture and Food Science (DiSBA) of the National Resesarch Council of Italy
27	EMBRAPA, Brazil
28	European Bioinformatics Institute
29	Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Germany
30	Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany
31	Genome BC
32	Genome Canada
33	

Genome Prairie

34

Global Crop Diversity Trust

35

Global Plant Council

36

ICARDA

37

ICBA - Agriculture for Tomorrow

38

ICRISAT

39

IITA

40

ILRI

41

Indonesian Agency for Agricultural Research and Development

42

INRA, France

43

Institute of Biosciences and Bioresources, Italian Council of National Research

44

Iowa State University

45

iPlant

46

IRRI

47

ITPGRFA Secretariat

48

James Hutton Institute, Scotland, U.K.

49

Kasetsart University

50

Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK)

51

National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences, Japan

52

National Institutes of Genetics, Japan

53

NIAB, United Kingdom

54

NordGen

55

Queensland Alliance for Agriculture & Food Innovation, Australia

56

Secretariat of the Pacific Community

57

The Genome Analysis Centre (TGAC), United Kingdom

58

University of British Columbia

59

University of California, Davis

60

University of Georgia

61

University of Minnesota

62

University of Missouri

63

University of Naples Federico II

64

University of Saskatchewan

65

USDA-ARS, USA

66

Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Australia

67

WorldAgroForestry Center

Private

1

German Federation of Private Plant Breeders (GFP)

2

Monsanto

3

Pioneer

Syngenta

On Tue, Nov 18, 2014 at 8:03 PM, Bretting, Peter

<Peter.Bretting@ars.usda.gov<<mailto:Peter.Bretting@ars.usda.gov>>> wrote:

Hello Hannes—attached is USDA/ARS's signature for the expression of interest in participating in the DivSeek. Apologies for the delayed reply while the text was reviewed here.

Note that the text “under the aegis of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture” was “struck through” on this signed copy. The US is not a Party to the ITPGRFA thus this phrase would not be applicable to USDA/ARS's participation in the Initiative at present.

Thanks so much for your patience; we look forward to further engagement with the DivSeek Initiative.

With all best wishes,

Peter

Peter Bretting

USDA/ARS Office of National Programs

Room 4-2212, Mailstop 5139

5601 Sunnyside Avenue

Beltsville, MD 20705-5139

Phone [1.301.504.5541](tel:1.301.504.5541)<<tel:1.301.504.5541>>

Fax [1.301.504.6191](tel:1.301.504.6191)<<tel:1.301.504.6191>>

Mobile Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov<<mailto:peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov>>

Web site: http://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs/programs.htm?NP_CODE=301

From: Hannes Dempewolf

[<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@cropptrust.org><<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@cropptrust.org>>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2014 11:01 AM

To: Bretting, Peter; Richards, Chris; Edward Buckler

Cc: Marie Haga; Bhatti, Shakeel (AGDT); Ruth Bastow; Powell, Wayne (CGIAR Consortium)

Subject: DivSeek expression of interest

Dear Drs. Peter Bretting, Christopher Richards and Ed Buckler,

After two scoping meetings in January and April 2014, DivSeek is becoming a reality. We have created a small steering and working group to develop a white paper, to initiate the scoping phase and to develop the plan for launching the initiative. A website includes all our work to date (<http://www.divseek.org>).

A first Partners' Assembly will take place in early 2015, to establish the governance of DivSeek. For your institution to take part in the Assembly, we ask you to return a signed copy of the letter that is attached, by 31 October. Please identify the appropriate person who can sign on behalf of your organization. Signature of the letter constitutes a simple and non-binding expression of interest in DivSeek. Please submit the signed letter to divseek@cropptrust.org<<mailto:divseek@cropptrust.org>> and pgrfa-treaty@fao.org<<mailto:pgrfa-treaty@fao.org>>

A draft Charter, setting forth the principles and institutional mechanisms of DivSeek, will be distributed in advance of the Partners' Assembly.

We continue to promote DivSeek as an open and transparent initiative, and look forward to your further engagement.

Kind regards,
Marie Haga, Shakeel Bhatti, Ruth Bastow and Wayne Powell

On behalf of the joint facilitation unit:

--

Hannes Dempewolf
Scientist and Project Manager
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
Office: +49 228 85427 115<tel:%2B49%20228%2085427%20115>
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.croptrust.org<<http://www.croptrust.org>>

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Daniele Manzella <daniele.manzella@divseek.org>
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 9:36 AM
To: Info DivSeek; Hannes Dempewolf
Subject: Preparations for DivSeek Partners' Assembly - draft Charter
Attachments: Draft DivSeek Charter.pdf; Charter-guidelines-template-en-(1).doc

Dear DivSeek Partners,

As anticipated in the invitation to the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly, we are circulating the **draft DivSeek Charter** for your comments, before the Assembly.

Attached to this message, you can find the draft Charter, as developed by the group of experts on governance and legal issues, and a **template** for submitting comments.

In order for comments to be compiled and synthesized before the Assembly, we are asking to get back to us no later than **22 December**.

As private sector organizations will be observers at the first Assembly, the draft Charter is circulated to them for information only.

The agenda of the Assembly will include the appointment of the first **Steering Committee** by the Assembly. The draft Charter foresees eight (8) members, nominated from Partner organizations, preferably from different regions, types of organizations and categories of expertise.

Should your organization be interested in membership to the Steering Committee, we invite you to forward the nomination of a representative of your organization by replying to this message. We will refer the nominations to the Assembly, provided that the group of experts on governance and legal issues may make suggestions, in keeping with the balancing criteria that the draft Charter sets forth.

Information on DivSeek's upcoming Assembly and technical meeting is available on <http://www.divseek.org/meetings/>. On the website, you can also find a new short video explaining the initiative.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the draft Charter and welcoming you to San Diego on the 9th of January.

Kind regards,

Daniele Manzella and Hannes Dempewolf

(on behalf of the Joint Facilitation Unit)



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35

Draft DIVSEEK Charter

This Charter defines the general conditions for the operation of DIVSEEK and sets forth the governance structure for voluntary cooperation by Partners. This Charter does not create any legally binding obligation between or among Partners.

The DIVSEEK First Assembly approved this Charter on 9 January 2015 in San Diego (USA). The list of organizations represented at the Assembly is in Annex A.

Background

Meeting the food needs of a growing human population in an era characterized by climate change and increased competition for land and water is a key global challenge. Crop production must rise, and crops must become more resilient to an increasingly unstable climate to produce sufficient nutritious food and other agricultural products in a sustainable manner. Natural variation from genetic resources is the raw material for crop improvement, and thus must be a critical component of any comprehensive strategy to address food security and the sustainability of agricultural production.

Until recently, it was difficult to systematically characterize and utilize the genetic resources that make up crop diversity. However, game-changing technologies and big-data approaches now enable a comprehensive approach to genetic resources, using existing but dispersed capacities of genebanks, breeders, researchers, farmers and other stakeholders, to respond to global research priorities. In recent years a number of crop-specific projects have been initiated in this new sphere. In an attempt to link these unconnected efforts DivSeek was initiated, as a voluntary association of like-minded partners harnessing genetic resources for food security to create synergies that would benefit most stakeholders and hence accelerate the unlocking of the untapped value of genetic resources for the benefit of sustainable intensification and climate proofing of global agriculture.

Mission

The mission of DIVSEEK is to cross-link, support and add value to individual projects that **harness the power of crop diversity** for food and nutritional security by enabling breeders and researchers to broadly mobilize natural, useful genetic variation in order to **accelerate crop improvement**.

Principles

DIVSEEK aims to bring together a broad array of partners on a voluntary basis to **facilitate networking** among otherwise disconnected efforts to harness genetic resources for crop improvement and to ensure the continuous relevance of their outputs for the targeted beneficiaries. DIVSEEK is a **community-driven** and **inclusive** initiative open to all institutions from all relevant sectors, including public, private, academic, civil society and intergovernmental organizations. Any organization can become a Partner by accepting this Charter in writing.¹

DIVSEEK advocates the application of state-of-the-art genomic, phenotyping and phenomic technologies to enhance the quality, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of germplasm conservation, provision and utilization for breeding, to **deepen our understanding of crop diversity** and to stimulate public interest in the role of genetic diversity for crop improvement.

DIVSEEK facilitates the **linking of germplasm with characterization data** through the promotion of common data standards and best practices designed to enable interoperability among information systems, to broaden the usability of data and germplasm, and to support open access to germplasm-associated data.

DIVSEEK follows a **modular approach** to information management which aims to define and maintain a set of core standards for data exchange to enable data integration and interoperability among continuously evolving and potentially diverse platforms and data domains. This approach reduces transaction costs, allows for effective 'rights management' at a level of discretion determined by individual stakeholders, and allows stakeholders to absorb and adapt to new requirements and rapidly changing technologies.

DIVSEEK contributes to on-going international cooperation for the developing and strengthening of a **global information system**, to facilitate the exchange of information on scientific, technical and environmental matters related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

DIVSEEK recognizes the importance of **understanding the needs and capacities** of stakeholders such as genebanks, breeders, researchers and farmers to define priority areas for germplasm characterization and data access. DIVSEEK offers opportunities for publicizing critical needs and facilitating cross-crop learning and capacity development and training to apply cutting-edge tools and approaches to both impact-oriented and discovery-driven research on plant genetic resources.

To implement the actions and principles set forth in this Charter, DIVSEEK may elaborate operational guidelines, including through broad-based **expert consultations**.

Membership

Partners are organizations that support DIVSEEK's mission by associating specific activities with DIVSEEK and by providing advice and support. Partners individually determine the nature and extent of their participation in DIVSEEK.

¹ At the first DivSeek Assembly, private sector organizations have acted as observers, pending the definition of operational guidelines for their engagement.

1 New organizations that wish to join as Partner may submit a letter of interest to the Joint
2 Facilitation Unit and, upon invitation by the Steering Committee, be asked to approve this
3 Charter in writing.

4

5

Governance

6 All Partners are invited to nominate one representative and one alternate to participate in
7 the annual DIVSEEK **Assembly**. The Assembly meets at least once a year. The functions of the
8 Assembly are to:

- 9 a) Consider and approve DIVSEEK's annual work plan and the budget of the Joint
10 Facilitation Unit, accompanied by a resource mobilization plan, and the annual
11 progress report, submitted by the Steering Committee;
- 12 b) Recommend the strategic direction of activities and projects associated with
13 DIVSEEK;
- 14 c) Elect the Steering Committee members from among Partners, for a term of two
15 years, renewable for one term; and
- 16 d) Elect a Chairperson of the Assembly, for a term of four years, not renewable.

17 The **Steering Committee** consists of the Chairperson of the Assembly and eight Partner
18 representatives, preferably from different regions, types of organizations and categories of
19 expertise. The Steering Committee convenes at least twice a year. Representational
20 guidelines for the Steering Committee may be defined by the Assembly. The functions of the
21 Steering Committee are to:

- 22 a) Prepare the agenda for the Assembly;
- 23 b) Provide inputs and eventually endorse the draft DIVSEEK's annual work plan and the
24 draft budget of the Joint Facilitation Unit, accompanied by a resource mobilization
25 plan, and the annual progress report;
- 26 c) Periodically collect information about interactions among Partners and convey such
27 information to the Assembly;
- 28 d) Advise the Assembly on the strategic direction of activities and projects associated
29 with DIVSEEK; and
- 30 e) Work with the Joint Facilitation Unit to prepare and present information and updates
31 on DIVSEEK for the constituencies and governing bodies of the institutions providing
32 the Joint Facilitation Unit.²

33 The Assembly and the Steering Committee shall make every effort to adopt their decisions
34 by consensus, that is, the absence of a formal objection by any of the Partners present at the
35 meeting. A valid quorum for meetings of the Assembly is the presence of the majority of the
36 Partners. Changes to this Charter shall only be possible with the consensus of the Assembly,
37 with at least three quarters of the Partners present.

38 The Assembly and the Steering Committee may establish rules of procedure for their
39 meetings. Such rules of procedures may provide for matters such as: a) notice and record of
40 meetings; b) decision making (e.g., where consensus cannot be reached) and recording of

² The Global Crop Diversity Trust, the CGIAR Consortium Office, the Global Plant Council and the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture provide the Joint Facilitation Unit. Voluntary cooperation on DIVSEEK does not entail any obligation in relation to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

1 dissent; c) electronic tools and procedures for decision making; d) conflict of interest; e)
2 replacement of Steering Committee members.

3 The functions of the **Joint Facilitation Unit** are to:

- 4 a) Develop the draft DIVSEEK's annual work plan and the draft budget of the Joint
5 Facilitation Unit, accompanied by a resource mobilization plan, and the annual
6 progress report;
- 7 b) Develop initiatives for awareness raising, capacity development and training;
- 8 c) Support the development of operational guidelines to implement DIVSEEK's
9 principles;
- 10 d) Provide potential Partners with membership information;
- 11 e) Promote linkages for DIVSEEK to cooperate with other initiatives and programs of
12 relevance to its mission, such as the CGIAR Research Programs and multilateral
13 initiatives promoting access to, and transfer of technology and knowledge;
- 14 f) Assist the Steering Committee in the periodical collecting of information about
15 interactions among Partners;
- 16 g) Prepare meetings of the Assembly and the Steering Committee; and
- 17 h) Jointly mobilize and administer financial and other resources for DIVSEEK's work plan
18 and the budget of the Joint Facilitation Unit.

19

20

Use of logos and names

21 Partners may, on a good-faith basis, use DIVSEEK's logo and name for projects endorsed by
22 DIVSEEK. Partners agree that their names and logos be displayed on DIVSEEK's web site and
23 documentation.

24

25

Withdrawal and termination

26 Partners may withdraw from DIVSEEK by serving the Joint Facilitation Unit with a two-month
27 written notice. Upon withdrawal, the Partner is to cease associating any of its projects and
28 partnerships being executed as a result of participation in DIVSEEK with DIVSEEK's initiative
29 and logo.

30 The Steering Committee may terminate membership if it determines that a Partner does not
31 comply with this Charter, upon written notice to the Partner.



Guidelines and Template for the Review of the Draft DivSeek Charter

I. Background

1. The DivSeek scoping meeting in April 2014 mandated a working group on governance and legal issues to develop the formal governance structure of DivSeek.
2. As advised by the working group, the DivSeek Joint Facilitation Unit circulated a letter calling for non-binding expressions of interest in DivSeek. Organizations that signed the expression of interest, are invited to the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly on 9 January 2015.
3. As anticipated in the letter calling for expressions of interest, the working group has developed a draft Charter setting forth the principles and institutional mechanisms of DivSeek, for consideration and approval by the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly.
4. The draft Charter is circulated before the DivSeek Partners' Assembly for comments. This document provides guidance on submitting comments on the draft Charter.
5. The comments received will be compiled, fully referenced and circulated before the Assembly, together with a synthesis report.
6. The Assembly is exclusively responsible for reviewing and approving the draft Charter. During the Assembly, experts of the working group on governance and legal issues may suggest textual changes to the draft Charter, for the consideration of the Assembly.
7. The text of the draft Charter is provisional and subject to the approval of the Assembly. It shall not be published, displayed, re-transmitted in any manner, quoted or cited in any publication, website or network.

II. Accessing the Draft Charter and Submitting Comments

8. The draft Charter is transmitted together with this document, in a portable document format (PDF).
9. To ensure that your comments are included in the compilation and synthesis report that will be circulated before the first DivSeek Partners' Assembly, please send them by e-mail to daniele.manzella@divseek.org and hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org or by fax at: +39 06570 53057, at your earliest convenience but **no later than 22 December 2014**.
10. When submitting comments, please adhere to the following guidelines as much as possible:
 - a. Please provide all comments in writing and in an MS Word or similar document format using the table provided below.

- b. Please provide full contact information for the individual/organization submitting the comments.
- c. Please clearly indicate if you are submitting general comments or comments on a specific line of the Charter.
- d. In areas where you feel additional or alternative text is required, please suggest, if possible, *what this text may look like* or *what should be included*.
- e. Please avoid commenting on issues related to grammar, spelling, or punctuation, unless it affects the overall meaning of the text, as the Charter will be edited.
- f. If you refer to additional sources of information, please include these with your comments when possible or provide a complete reference or hyperlink.

11. Should you have any questions regarding the review process, please contact daniele.manzella@divseek.org and hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org.

III. Template for Comments

- 12. Please use the review template below when providing comments.
- 13. The draft Charter is transmitted in PDF. Line and page numbers have been included throughout the document. When making comments, please use these line and page numbers as a reference as illustrated in the table below.
- 14. General comments can be included in the table by referring to Page 0 and Line 0.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>
Sent: Saturday, December 06, 2014 3:59 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Cc: Peter Wenzl
Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Hi Chris,

To be honest, I am not quite sure what is going on at the moment. Unfortunately the whole dealings with the hotel are out of our control and are done by the Treaty since they are also organizing the logistics of COGIS. I just learned that if you book the hotel through the hotel's webpage it is quite expensive and since I can't guarantee you that the preferable rate that the Treaty is negotiating will be less than \$142, I am afraid my recommendation to you is to go and book your accommodation at hotel circle and take the tram/bus down to the hotel for the day for the meeting...

I am copying here Peter, just so he is in the loop, since Peter and Marie but not myself will be representing the Trust at the meeting.

Sorry!
Hannes

On Fri, Dec 5, 2014 at 10:41 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

Thanks Hannes,

Am I to assume they are booking the room under their favorable rate and I will pay upon check in (which I plan to), or that they are covering the costs in-kind? This has consequences in the way I put together my travel voucher. Just to be clear my max lodging in San Diego is \$142, so hopefully the Treaty's rate is less than that.

Cheers,

Chris

From: Hannes Dempewolf [<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>]
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 2:28 AM
To: Richards, Chris

Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Richards, Chris
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 4:42 PM
To: Hannes Dempewolf
Subject: RE: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Thanks Hannes,

Am I to assume they are booking the room under their favorable rate and I will pay upon check in (which I plan to), or that they are covering the costs in-kind? This has consequences in the way I put together my travel voucher. Just to be clear my max lodging in San Diego is \$142, so hopefully the Treaty's rate is less than that.

Cheers,
Chris

From: Hannes Dempewolf [mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org]
Sent: Friday, December 05, 2014 2:28 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Hi Chris,

I have now received word from the Treaty secretariat and they recommend booking your hotel room at the Hilton San Diego Gaslamp District directly, since there are favorable rates on offer still.

My apologies for the delay in getting back to you.
Thanks,
Hannes

On Thu, Nov 27, 2014 at 6:34 PM, Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org> wrote:
Hi Chris,

No schedule yet, but we are working on it. Yes, there is a contingent of rooms set aside for the DivSeek meeting but I am still waiting to hear from the Treaty what the procedure is for booking them. I believe they are trying to set up some kind of website. I'll be back in touch as soon as I have any news!

Hannes

On Thu, Nov 27, 2014 at 6:23 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

Dear Hannes-

I will make arrangements at the hotel. Is there some group rate you've negotiated otherwise I'll try a government rate. Is there a provisional schedule set for the meetings?

duplicate email trail deleted

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Richards, Chris
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 6:57 PM
To: Hannes Dempewolf
Subject: DivSeek Vid

Great video!

I'm running it by Peter Bretting.

I would change my affiliation to the "USDA, National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation"
I would work on improving the sound quality for Shakeel

More later,
C.

From: Hannes Dempewolf [mailto:hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org]
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 3:38 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: CWR newsletter

Sure, will do!

H

Hannes Dempewolf
Scientist and Project Manager
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
Office: +49 228 85427 115
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.croptrust.org

Conserving Crop Diversity, Forever

On Fri, Nov 14, 2014 at 1:13 AM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

Can you add my email to the routing list for this newsletter? Gayle showed it to me. I will volunteer to go to Vietnam to get some M. doumeri!

Christopher Richards, Ph.D.

Population Geneticist

United States Department of Agriculture

National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation

Colorado State University

1111 South Mason Street

Fort Collins, CO 80521

USA

Chris.richards@colostate.edu

970 495 3201

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=42033>

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9978-6079>

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@croptrust.org>
Sent: Friday, November 14, 2014 5:38 AM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: CWR newsletter

Sure, will do!

H

Hannes Dempewolf
Scientist and Project Manager
Global Crop Diversity Trust
Platz der Vereinten Nationen 7
53113 Bonn, Germany
Office: +49 228 85427 115
Mobile: [REDACTED]
www.croptrust.org

Conserving Crop Diversity, Forever

On Fri, Nov 14, 2014 at 1:13 AM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

Can you add my email to the routing list for this newsletter? Gayle showed it to me. I will volunteer to go to Vietnam to get some M. doumeri!

Christopher Richards, Ph.D.

Population Geneticist

United States Department of Agriculture

National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation

Colorado State University

1111 South Mason Street

Fort Collins, CO 80521

USA

Chris.richards@colostate.edu

970 495 3201

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/pandp/people/people.htm?personid=42033>

<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-9978-6079>

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Bretting, Peter
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2014 6:04 AM
To: Hannes Dempewolf
Cc: Richards, Chris; Edward Buckler; Buckler, Ed; Ware, Doreen; Ware, Doreen; Simmons, Kay; Info DivSeek; Daniele Manzella
Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Thanks, Hannes. It's Thanksgiving weekend here; we'll probably discuss ARS representation sometime next week.

Shakeel and I chatted earlier this week; we'll continue discussions about various arrangements.

See you in early January!

Peter

Peter Bretting
National Program Leader
USDA/ARS Office of National Programs
George Washington Carver Center
4-2212, Mailstop 5139
Beltsville, MD 20705-5139
301-504-5541
Cell [REDACTED]
peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov

On Nov 27, 2014, at 11:16 AM, Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org> wrote:

Dear Dr. Peter Bretting and colleagues at USDA ARS,

We are very happy to learn that the USDA ARS is on board with DivSeek and are looking forward to engaging with you on the further development of the initiative. We are aware of some further ongoing deliberations between USDA ARS and the Treaty secretariat with regards to the Treaty reference in the document.

We have received an overwhelming number of 67 expressions of interests, which we take as a clear testament to the importance and timeliness of the DivSeek initiative! Please find below a list of institutions that have expressed their interest. We are also still pursuing participation by a few additional institutions and representative bodies from both the public and private sectors.

We are also happy to report that several private sector entities have expressed their interest in the DivSeek initiative (see below). The interface of any public/private partnership, such as DivSeek, requires a clear framework and rules of engagement for both public and private partners. We propose that the development of such a framework form part of the first DivSeek program of work and are looking forward to engaging with the private sector in this exercise. In the meanwhile, we will invite representatives of the private sector to attend the partners assembly in an observer role.

Hutchison, Stasia

From: Hannes Dempewolf <hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2014 12:35 PM
To: Richards, Chris
Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Hi Chris,

No schedule yet, but we are working on it. Yes, there is a contingent of rooms set aside for the DivSeek meeting but I am still waiting to hear from the Treaty what the procedure is for booking them. I believe they are trying to set up some kind of website. I'll be back in touch as soon as I have any news!

Hannes

On Thu, Nov 27, 2014 at 6:23 PM, Richards, Chris <Chris.Richards@ars.usda.gov> wrote:

Dear Hannes-

I will make arrangements at the hotel. Is there some group rate you've negotiated otherwise I'll try a government rate. Is there a provisional schedule set for the meetings?

Cheers,

Chris

From: Hannes Dempewolf [<mailto:hannes.dempewolf@divseek.org>]
Sent: Thursday, November 27, 2014 9:16 AM
To: Bretting, Peter
Cc: Richards, Chris; Edward Buckler; Buckler, Ed; Ware, Doreen; Ware, Doreen; Simmons, Kay; Info DivSeek; Daniele Manzella
Subject: Re: USDA/ARS signature for expression of interest in DivSeek

Dear Dr. Peter Bretting and colleagues at USDA ARS,

We are very happy to learn that the USDA ARS is on board with DivSeek and are looking forward to engaging with you on the further development of the initiative. We are aware of some further ongoing deliberations between USDA ARS and the Treaty secretariat with regards to the Treaty reference in the document.