

**Meeting notes summary of the inception meeting for the project:  
“Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives”, funded by the Darwin Initiative  
Venue: Unidad de Seminarios, UNAM, Mexico City  
Date: October 13 & 14 2016**

The main themes discussed during the inception meeting are summarized below, following the agenda (Annex 1). Attached you will find the list of participants (Annex 2).

1. Meeting objective: To discuss project planning, design, logistics, implementation reporting and legal and ethical compliance.
2. What is the Darwin Initiative?
  - Bárbara Goettsch explained what the Darwin Initiative is. Her talk included aspects of our collaborative project such as the logical framework, work structure, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
  - Participants commented on the importance of prioritizing species based on the maintenance of genetic diversity, the opportunities there might be to link this project to other national efforts (e.g. regulatory instruments for protecting endangered species at the national level).
  - Participants highlighted the importance to keep in mind ways to reach decision-makers and influence national conservation/environmental policies.
3. Taxa list
  - Shelagh Kell, Aremi Contreras and Oswaldo Oliveros presented on species selection criteria and challenges.
  - Participants discussed the need to have criteria consensus for prioritizing Mesoamerican CWR taxa.
4. Nagoya protocol
  - Nagoya protocol experts Alejandra Barrios (SEMARNAT) and Elleli Huerta (CONABIO) presented considerations that should be taken during the implementation of the project in compliance with the Nagoya protocol
  - Alejandra and Elleli pointed out that permits for plant material collection are needed, and they suggest to follow the Nagoya protocol rules under simplified regimen
  - The presenters pointed out the need for written consent from CONABIO and the CNRG (INIFAP) for accession of plant material collected in Mexico in seed banks and later use.
  - The presenters recommend to seek support from the Nagoya focal points to obtain permits in each country.

5. Information sharing mechanisms

- Participants discussed and suggested several tools for sharing information: for sharing data: google drive, CONABIO's ftp; for discussion and sharing documents: Ryver
- Participants mentioned the available data sources (Kew Botanical Gardens, Missouri Botanical Garden, CWR Atlas for Guatemala, SNIB-CONABIO, Gbif, Global Crop Diversity Trust, cwrdiversity.org)
- Toolkit available: CAPFITOGEN TOOLS capfitogen.net
- Software available for systematic conservation planning: Marxan, Zonation, Consnet

6. Capacity building

- Participants agreed on the importance to seek student involvement in coordination with academic institutions, and train them on the use of analysis tools. The goal is that students will later apply this knowledge in studies that will benefit the participating countries
- Potential opportunities for student exchange might be available through UNAM and the University of Birmingham

7. Communication and outreach products

- Participants discussed outreach materials such the poster to disseminate results
- Participants discussed the need to have a project's webpage, how and who should host it. Given that each partner has different domains and webpage designs and some of them cannot add webpages, the possibility of getting an independent domain and host will be explored, the institutions can then link the project's webpage to their website. Also, the materials (text, photos, maps, etc.) used for the project's website will be available so each institution have the option of creating their own project webpage following their institutional design.
- A brochure to promote the project during CBD COP13 side event
- A citizen science tool already in place in Mexico was discussed: Naturalista, <http://www.naturalista.mx/projects/plantas-cultivadas-de-mexico-y-sus-parientes-silvestres>

8. CBD event

- The Darwin Initiative will be part of the DEFRA side event scheduled for December 7, 18:15 during the CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico. We will have the opportunity to promote the project to an international audience.

#### 9. Accessions

The group of participants was divided into two smaller groups to allow more individual participation

- An extensive discussion on accessions and legal compliance took place.
- Topics discussed included: training, permit logistics, collections and seed banks, standardization of data capture and management.
- Participants from collaborating countries agreed to send feedback on the different topics discussed.

#### 10. Taxa selection criteria

- The group of participants was divided into two smaller groups to allow more individual participation
- Species selection criteria were brainstormed and discussed.
- The participants discussed two objectives for selecting species, first we need to select at least 250 species of Mesoamerica's CWR to be evaluated during the Red List Workshop (one of the project outcomes). Then we need to come up with criteria for selecting species that will be used for the prioritization of areas for conservation of CWR
- The list of criteria included the following: use diversity, nutritional value of the crop, socio-economic importance of the crop (productivity, cultivated area), crops with potential for genetic improvement, centre of origin and diversification in Mesoamerica, gene pools, threatened species, endemic species, potential for climatic adaptation, taxon experts available, ecological information available.

#### 11. Red List workshop

- Bárbara Goettsch presented what is this workshop about, who needs to attend and expected outcomes.
- Participants agreed that each institution will consolidate a list of experts for their country.

#### 12. Systematic conservation planning

- Shelagh Kell, Aremi Contreras and Tania Urquiza shared with the group presentations related to this topic, which was helpful to start thinking about this step of the project

#### 13. Important areas for conservation workshop

- Bárbara Goettsch gave a brief presentation about the general objective of this workshop that is planned to take place in each country, given that each country will decide their criteria for area prioritization. It was discussed who should attend and the main expected outcomes

#### 14. Agreements and commitments

- Each country will send the species list of CWR that are distributed in their territory
- A list of at least 250 Mesoamerican's CWR will be selected for the Red List workshop
- Each country will consolidate the list of experts for their region
- We will use Ryver for discussing and agreeing on the outreach materials content (brochure, poster, website)
- Each country will identify the key actors who should be included in the national workshop for identifying important areas for CWR conservation

## INCEPTION MEETING

*Objective:* Discuss project planning, design, logistics, implementation reporting and legal and ethical compliance.

### Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October

9:00 – 9:15	<b>Welcome</b> , acknowledgments and meeting overview	José Sarukhán
9:15 – 9:30	Round of presentations	
9:30-10:30	<b>What is the Darwin Initiative?</b> Project <i>Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview</li><li>• Main objectives</li><li>• Logical frame work and structure</li><li>• Reporting</li><li>• Monitoring and evaluating</li></ul>	Bárbara Goettsch  (Interactive session with Q&A)
10:30-10:45	Coffee break	
10:45-12:15	Brief presentation on the organizations and their role in the project University of Birmingham INIFAP ICTA CONAREFIH CENTA ORMACC IUCN CONABIO Asistente de Investigación	(10 minutes max per organization) Shelagh Kell  Karina Hernández Mario Parada Úrsula Parrilla Bárbara Goettsch Francisca Acevedo Emma Gómez
12:15-13:00	<b>Open discussion to reach consensus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can we best deliver on the objectives</li><li>• Information sharing mechanisms</li></ul>	
13:00-14:30	Lunch and Group Photography	

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October**

14:30- 14:50	<b>Taxon list</b> (selection criteria) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by the University of Birmingham (selection criteria for crop wild relatives of national, regional and global priority)</li> </ul>	Shelagh Kell
14:50 – 15:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by CONABIO (selection criteria for Mexico's CWR)</li> </ul>	Oswaldo Oliveros y Emma Gómez
15:10 – 15:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open discussion</li> </ul>	
15:50 – 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00- 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with Nagoya protocol</li> </ul>	Alejandra Barrios y Elleli Huerta
16:30 – 17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field work</li> </ul>	
17:00 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessions</li> </ul>	
18:00	Dinner (the group will depart from the meeting room to the Restaurant)	

**Friday 14th October**

9:00-10:00	<b>Open discussion to reach consensus on:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting</li> <li>• Monitoring and evaluating</li> <li>• Knowledge sharing and capacity building mechanisms</li> <li>• Communication and outreach products</li> <li>• CBD side event</li> </ul>	
10:00-11:00	Activities- Who is doing what and when	
11:00-11:20	Coffee break	
11:20-12:00	<b>Red List Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates, what will we do, who should be there, main results from this.</li> <li>• What happens after the workshop</li> </ul>	Bárbara Goettsch

**Friday 14th October**

12:00-12:30 (Including 10 minutes for questions)	<b>Systematic conservation planning: the experience of Mexico for biodiversity</b> (emphasis on SCP protocols, data requirements, biological and social criteria, target setting and expert input)	Tania Urquiza /Patricia Koleff
12:30-13:00 (Including 10 minutes for questions)	<b>Systematic planning for the conservation of crop wild relatives at the national, regional and global level.</b> (emphasis on selection of important populations for conservation of CWR diversity)	Shelagh Kell
13:00-13:30 (Including 10 minutes for questions)	<b>Proposal for developing a national CWR conservation strategy for Mexico</b>	Aremi Contreras
13:30-15:00	Lunch	
15:00-16:00	<b>Important Areas for Conservation workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates, what will we do, who should be there, main results from this.</li> <li>• What happens after the workshop</li> </ul>	Bárbara Goettsch
16:00-16:30	Final remarks and meeting wrap-up	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Country</b>
Shelagh Kell	University of Birmingham	Reino Unido
Aremi Contreras	University of Birmingham	Reino Unido
Úrsula Parrilla	UICN Regional - ORMACC	Guatemala
Martín Quintana Camargo	CNRG INIFAP	Mexico
Moises Alberto Cortes Cruz	CNRG INIFAP	Mexico
Ruth Karina Hernández Cibrián	CONAREFIH	Honduras
Francy Nohemy Castañeda	CONAREFIH	Honduras
Mario Parada Jaco	CENTA	El Salvador
Aura Jazmin Morales de Borja	CENTA	El Salvador
Albaro Orellana	ICTA	Guatemala
Barbara Goettsch	UICN	UK
José Sarukhán	CONABIO	México
Patricia Koleff	CONABIO	México
Tania Urquiza	CONABIO	México
Francisca Acevedo	CONABIO	México
Emma Gómez	CONABIO	México
Alicia Mastreta	CONABIO	México
Oswaldo Oliveros	CONABIO	México
Jesús Alarcón	CONABIO	México
Wolke Tobon	CONABIO	México
Elleli Huerta Ocampo	CONABIO	México
Romana Alejandra Barrios Pérez	SEMARNAT	México