

**Minutes of the Second  
AEGIS Steering Committee Meeting  
20 June, 2005, IPGRI, Maccarese, Rome**

**Participants:**

**AEGIS Steering Committee (SC):**

Ayfer Tan  
Bela Bartha (NGOs)  
Eva Thörn (Chair of the AEGIS SC)  
Frank Begemann  
Geert Kleijer  
Jan Engels (IPGRI)  
Lorenzo Maggioni (ECP/GR Secretariat, *ex officio*)  
Birgitte Lund (AEGIS Project Manager)

**Observers from IPGRI:**

Ehsan Dulloo  
Jozef Turok (attending on 20 June only)

**Unable to attend:**

Brad Fraleigh (FAO)  
Eliseu Bettencourt  
Garlich von Essen (ESA)  
Pending member representing the EC

**Introduction**

During the start up phase of the AEGIS project it became clear that there was a need to clarify the vision for an integrated genebank system in Europe, to visualize the benefits and to address the policy issues. It was therefore decided to establish a Local AEGIS Task Force at IPGRI in March 2005. The members are Birgitte Lund, Ehsan Dulloo, Jan Engels, Jozef Turok and Lorenzo Maggioni. Furthermore, it was decided to have an increased involvement of the AEGIS Steering Committee (SC) in the project.

The first task of the Local AEGIS Task Force was to formulate a draft of a 'Vision Paper' with input from the SC. This draft should be shared and discussed with the Project Partners. It was therefore decided that extraordinary meetings should be held. The SC should start to have a meeting on 20 June to discuss the draft of the 'Vision Paper' presented to them by the Local AEGIS Task Force. This meeting would be continued for half a day on the 21 June to agree on how to present to and discuss this with the Project Partners. Ahead of the June meetings the preliminary draft had also been distributed to the Project Partners.

Another purpose of the June meetings was to ensure that a common understanding is obtained of what we all ultimately want to achieve through the AEGIS project and to plan next steps.

### **Welcoming**

The participants were welcomed by Eva Thörn, the Chair on the AEGIS Steering Committee (SC), Jozef Turok, the Regional Director for Europe and on behalf of IPGRI, Lorenzo Maggioni, the ECP/GR Secretariat and Birgitte Lund, the AEGIS Project Manager. Eva was chair of the SC meeting.

*Minutes including all appendices which have been referred to in this text, are available on the AEGIS home page: [www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm](http://www.ecpgr.cgiar.org/AEGIS/AEGIS.htm)*

### **Presentations**

The presentations given at the meeting are briefly listed below in chronological order according to the agenda. (*Agenda, see Appendix 1*).

#### ***Project update***

A brief update on the project was given by Birgitte. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 2*).

#### ***The 'Vision Paper'***

The 'Vision Paper' was introduced by Eva followed by a brief presentation chapter by chapter by each of the respective responsible authors from the Local AEGIS Task Force. Each presentation was followed by a discussion and recommendations.

#### ***Considerations for further support for the AEGIS project***

Lorenzo gave an update on the financial status of the AEGIS project. Furthermore three different options on how to solve the lack of available funds were proposed. One proposal is to make traditionally requests to obtain additional funds from the ECP/GR member countries; another is the consideration to open for funds from the Global Crop Diversity Trust, and the last is the opportunity from the EC Council Regulation.

Jozef gave a presentation on the European Council Regulation (EC) 870/2004 which follows the former EC 1467/1994. Furthermore, the participants were informed that the European Commission (EC) has showed a certain interest in AEGIS. The EC wants to be informed on the AEGIS 'Vision Paper' and has encouraged sending a proposal for concerted action for the first call. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 3*).

### ***Any other business***

The joint meeting with the Global Crop Diversity Trust on 21 June was planned. A presentation on the AEGIS project was prepared. (*The power point presentation, see Appendix 4*).

## **Discussions and recommendations**

### ***The 'Vision Paper'***

The 'Vision Paper' discussions and recommendations were all put down on flipcharts during chart writing. These and additional comments of relevance have been included in the 'Vision Paper'. The 'Vision Paper' is a paper to be used in different contexts such as for the policy makers, at the national level and for other bodies. The purpose to write it is to visualize and convince countries and all stakeholders and to send out the message that no one (genebanks or collections) should feel threatened. During implementation of the system it would be allowed to grow bottom up and thus be a flexible and transparent system.

It was discussed whether the aspect of **access** should be included in the 'Vision Paper' or if it should only concentrate on conservation. The general opinion was that conservation and access cannot be split. The 'Vision Paper' is going to indicate access on the global level. It is important to show the open mind of the system and show the benefits to the whole world.

*(Chart writing from the discussion of the 'Vision Paper', see Appendix 5).*

### Decision:

- to include in the 'Vision Paper' recommendations given during the discussions.

### ***Further support for the AEGIS project***

It was recommended that additional funding from the national coordinators could be requested. The second option to obtain funds from the Trust is unreliable.

### Decision:

- ECP/GR Secretariat and the SC to contact the ECP/GR national coordinators for additional funding requests from the national coordinators. Any free and flexible initiatives would be appreciated.
- The Local AEGIS Task Force (Birgitte) to prepare and submit a proposal to the European Council Regulation (EC) No. 870/2004 for concerted actions. The proposal should be for Meetings for the Project Partners, the Steering Committee and travels of the Project Manager.

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21 June (afternoon), 2005, FAO, Rome**

This meeting was a continuation of the meeting on 20 June but with an open Agenda.

In common a presentation of the 'Vision Paper' was prepared to be presented to the Project Partners on the joint meeting between the AEGIS Steering Committee and the Project Partners to take place on 22 June.

Furthermore, tasks for the Project Partners during the final year of the project were discussed and planned based on the AEGIS Project Document with reference to points 4.1. to 4.9.