



#### Meeting the information challenge for crop wild relatives (CWR) *in situ* conservation: A global portal hosting national and international data on CWR

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## **Overview of presentation**

- CWR definition and importance
- The global CWR project
- Challenges at beginning of project
- Addressing the challenges
- Results: national information systems and global portal
- Some conclusions and lessons learned
- Future needs / local global linkage







# **CWR** – definition and importance

- Wild species more or less closely related to crops, but unlike them, have not been domesticated.
- Threatened by global change. An estimated <u>16-22%</u> of CWR species studied might go extinct by 2055.
- Seriously under-conserved *ex situ* and *in situ*
- But many CWRs harbor genetic traits that could hold the key for many crops to adapt to climate change







# The global CWR project

- Title: In situ conservation of crop wild relatives through enhanced information management and field application
- Supported by UNEP/GEF
- Implemented by Bioversity International
- April 2004 February 2010
- Partner countries
  - Armenia, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan
- Partner organizations
  - BGCI, BLE, FAO, IUCN, UNEP-WCMC
- Co-financing: BMZ, Germany







# Challenges at beginning of project

# Develop CWR information management systems and capacity when:

#### In general

- very little information activities on CWR exist as examples
- information is very scattered and difficult to access
- no global web site exist dedicated to CWR

#### In partner countries

- only one targeted information activity exists (CWR atlas in BOL)
- data are dispersed, in format not readily usable
- little data are digitized, in particular location data
- data structures are different in institutes within one country
- Very different national settings regarding in-country collaboration, IT infrastructure and capacities





## Addressing the challenges

- Development of CWR descriptors for data types and fields necessary to capture all relevant information about CWR
- Digitization and aggregation of existing but dispersed information in national or institutional databases based on descriptors
- Collection of new occurrence data from numerous field surveys
- Use of and integration into existing IT structure
- New collaborations between different institutions within a country
- Training on GIS and national CWR information systems
   within the countries







## Results

#### **CWR** information systems in the countries

- National information systems to manage CWR data, integrated in national settings, making best use of existing infrastructure:
  - The establishment varied from building up a web based system from scratch, to adapting existing Access databases through providing CWR to an already existing national data portal
- National web sites providing access to CWR information and data
- Systems now hosted in national organizations with relevant capacity, committed to maintenance, updating and long-term sustainability

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### Results

**CWR global portal** 

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#### www.cropwildrelatives.org

- All five national inventories searchable through a unique search function
- links to international resources that provide additional information about the CWR taxa
- Content management system: easy management; sustainability
- Other features: News, events, publications, experts, institutes, projects
- Straightforward user contributions





## Some conclusions and lessons learned

- Establishment of effective partnership in the countries among institutions that formerly had not worked together has been crucial to the successful development of the national inventories
- all major players in the area of content as potential contributors and users need to be involved, in order to make the content provided as comprehensive as possible
- Taking care of local context and embedding the national information systems well into the national context, building on existing capacity, infrastructure and ways of collaboration has shown to be a solution that best addresses issues of sustainability in the future







## Future needs / local – global linkage

#### **Future needs**

- Identification of further national and international information sources and additional national inventories
- Consideration on how characterization and evaluation data can be integrated or linked.
- Provide training and capacity building materials to assist in increasing practical experience in CWR in situ conservation

#### Local – global linkage

- National data from 5 countries can be searched through one search interface
- Data exchange has been formalized through data sharing agreements and is based on a commonly used data standard, i.e. Darwin Core.







#### Armenia

- Web-based system (MySQL and PHP) for data entry and management
- Input mask deployed to 6 institutes that provide data to a central database
- Quality check at central database







#### Armenia

- Contains *ex situ* records, occurrence data from field surveys, plant images, maps, red listing data
- detailed information for 104 species; about 2000 species in the national inventory
- Web site where that data can be browsed
- <u>www.cwr.am</u>





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\* Higher Geography : Transcaucasia, Caucasus, former USSR

#### **Biological Elements**

\*FillSex hermaphrodite ?

\* Fill LifeStage: flowering 💽 ?

Fill Attributes:

#### **Collecting Event Elements**



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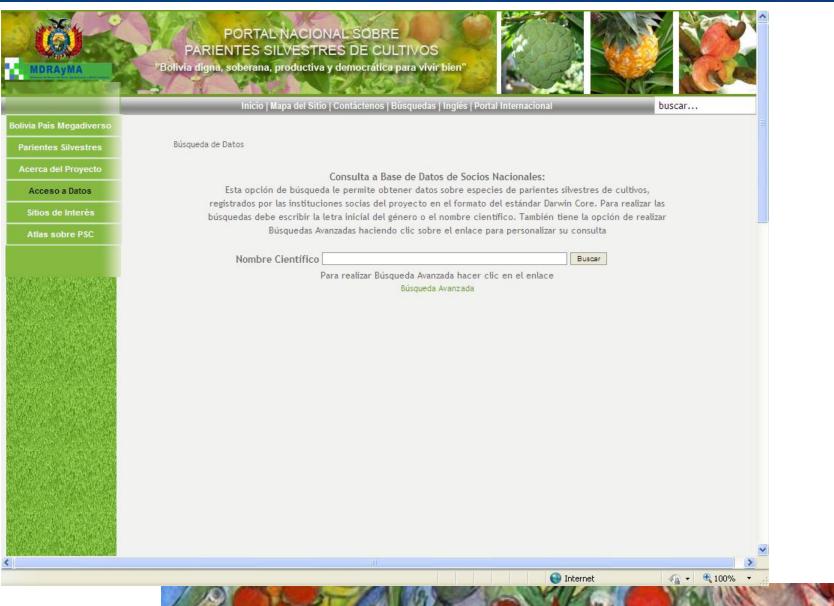


#### Bolivia

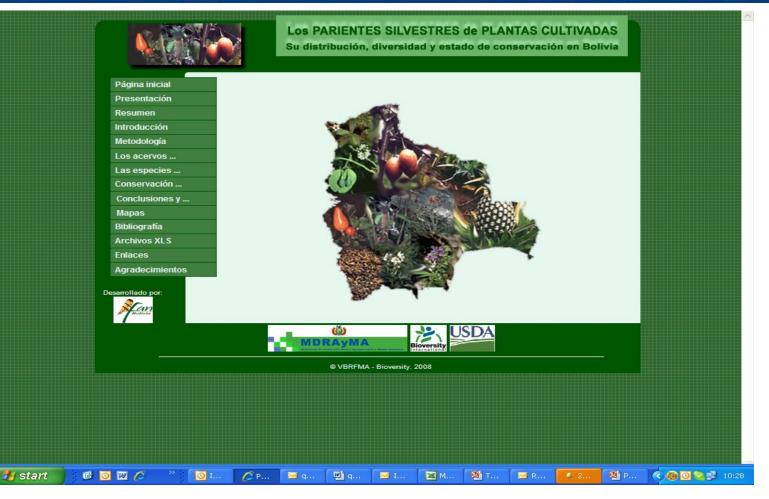
- 9 institutes set up institutional CWR databases with very detailed data
- 3010 records for 162 species
- Institutes send data for agreed descriptors via web services to national portal available at http://www.cwrbolivia.gov.bo/inicio.php
- CWR atlas http://www.cwrbolivia.gov.bo/atlaspsc/

















#### Madagascar

- Central Access database based on CWR descriptors
- Data for 154 CWR species
- Customization of existing national data portal on biodiversity data, REBIOMA, for the publishing of CWR data at national level rather than developing a dedicated CWR portal





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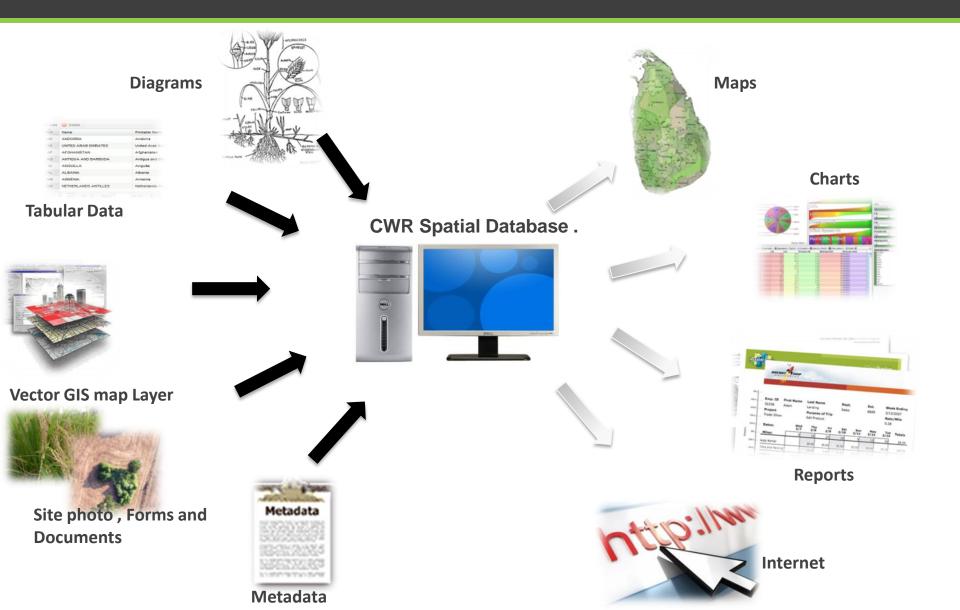
#### Sri Lanka

- Multi-user database
- CWR data integrated with display and generation of distribution maps





## **Spatial database components**



#### **CWR Spatial Database Control Panel**





### Taxon Module main window

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Details about the taxon to which the described populati	nn accession or specimen belongs	
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# Using Google Earth to Map CWR Site Locations and Save Them to a File

View in Google Earth

#### **Google Earth in CWR Spatial Database**

When you click the button on solution on the Google earth.

CWR atlas, all queried sites will be







#### Uzbekistan

- Access databases created
  - *in situ* based on field survey form used in the project
  - ex situ data from 6 research institutions
- Distribution maps
- All this is available from national website at <u>www.cwr.uz</u>



