

SOP 02. ANNEX 2. DEVELOPING THE LOGISTIC PLAN FOR THE EXPEDITION

Given the limited financial resources, it is essential that the collection of plant genetic resources (PGR) from wild flora is carried out as efficiently as possible. This ensures better utilization of available funds and the involvement of the most suitable partners.

Planning the itinerary and expedition schedule

The itinerary and schedule of the expedition are developed through:

1. Creating a list of areas (zones) designated for exploration, inventory, and collection (seeds are not collected from public places, parks, etc.);
2. Mapping the itinerary to reach the previously identified zones, printing a map, and marking the collection areas as well as the expedition itinerary;
3. The itinerary can be modified during the planning process or during the expedition itself, depending on additional information obtained, resource availability, or circumstances and/or opportunities encountered in the field.

Duration of the expedition

The duration of an expedition is determined by:

1. The distance and travel time to the collection area and between collection zones;
2. The time spent in each collection area, which depends on the time required for collecting and the primary processing of samples;
3. The type of collection mission. For example, in a short-term collection mission targeting a single species in a specific region, part of the species' diversity may be overlooked (SOP 02. ANNEX 5).

Authorization requirements

Authorization is always required when collecting on private land or within natural reserves. Collection is never conducted on public lands. Areas that are expected to be developed or destroyed in the near future provide excellent collection sites, provided permission is granted by the landowners (SOP 02. ANNEX 3).

Essential materials and equipment for maintaining seed viability and germination capacity

To ensure the viability and germination capacity of collected seeds, the following materials and equipment are essential:

- Altimeter, GPS, binoculars, pH meter;
- Paper bags (1, 2, 3 kg), paper envelopes (21 x 30 cm);
- Field press, paper, cardboard boxes for drying samples;
- Pruning shears, knife, soil digger, string;
- Canvas sheets, polyethylene sheets;
- Cotton, hemp, or plastic bags;
- Botanical identification guides, atlases, herbarium samples;
- Maps and documentary materials with biographical data about the collection zones;
- Measuring tape, pencils, pens, magnifying glass;

- Field notebook, labels;
- Camera;
- First aid kit (insecticide spray/cream, antibiotic tablets, elastic bandage, dressing, distilled water, rubbing alcohol, etc.);
- Gloves, boots, waterproof clothing.

Factors influencing the selection of the collection team

The main factors determining the selection of the collection team are the objectives of the collection mission and the level of knowledge about the priority plants of the expedition. In general, the collection team consists of a small number of individuals to ensure efficiency. The team is composed of competent individuals capable of achieving the expedition's objectives, with at least one person having substantial knowledge and experience in collecting plant genetic resources from wild flora.

When possible, the collection team may include a taxonomist or a local guide with knowledge of the local flora and access itineraries in the region. If this is not feasible, specialized literature is consulted, such as plant and flora identification guides, colour photocopies of already available herbarium samples, etc.

Partner selection

The choice of partners is crucial, as it can impact both the collection process and the subsequent conservation and evaluation of the germplasm. Potential partners may include:

- Universities and colleges;
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- Farmer organizations from local communities.