

Resources the world cocoa economy depends on:

- The **availability of genetic diversity** and the sustainable use of this broad genetic base to breed improved varieties.
- The loss of cacao genetic diversity increases the vulnerability of cacao to **adapt to changes in climate and new pests and diseases**.
- Most countries involved in improvement and production of cacao are **dependent on genes and varieties characterized and conserved in other countries and regions**.
- The efforts necessary to manage cacao genetic resources effectively can therefore only be carried out through **international collaboration**.
- The vision of the Strategy is to improve the **livelihoods of the 5-6 million cocoa farmers in developing countries** across tropical Africa, Asia and Latin America who produce around 90% of the cocoa worldwide, and the **40-50 million people who depend upon cocoa for their livelihoods**.



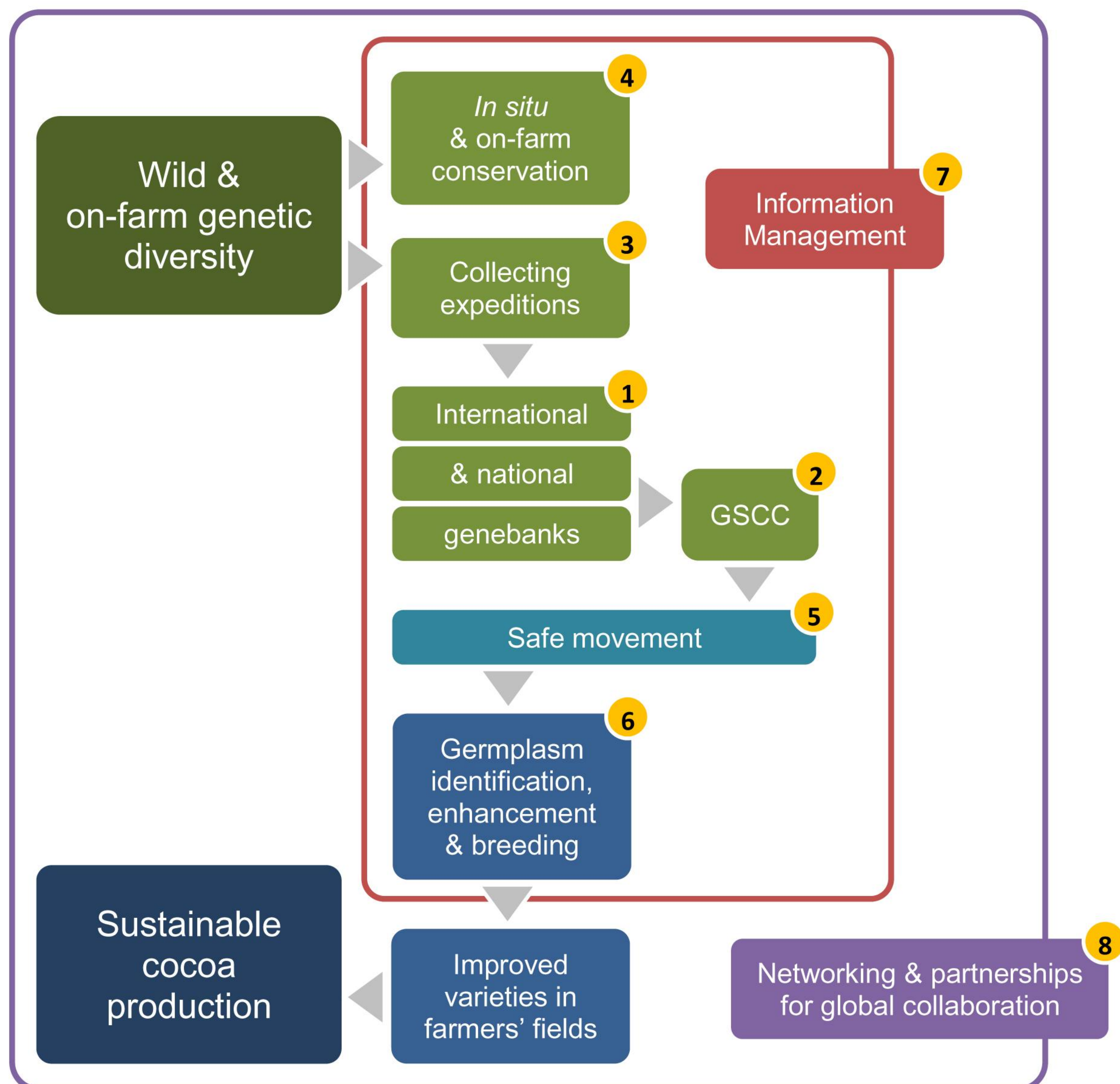
Photo: A. Mata/ W. Phillips, CATIE

Strategy Outputs:

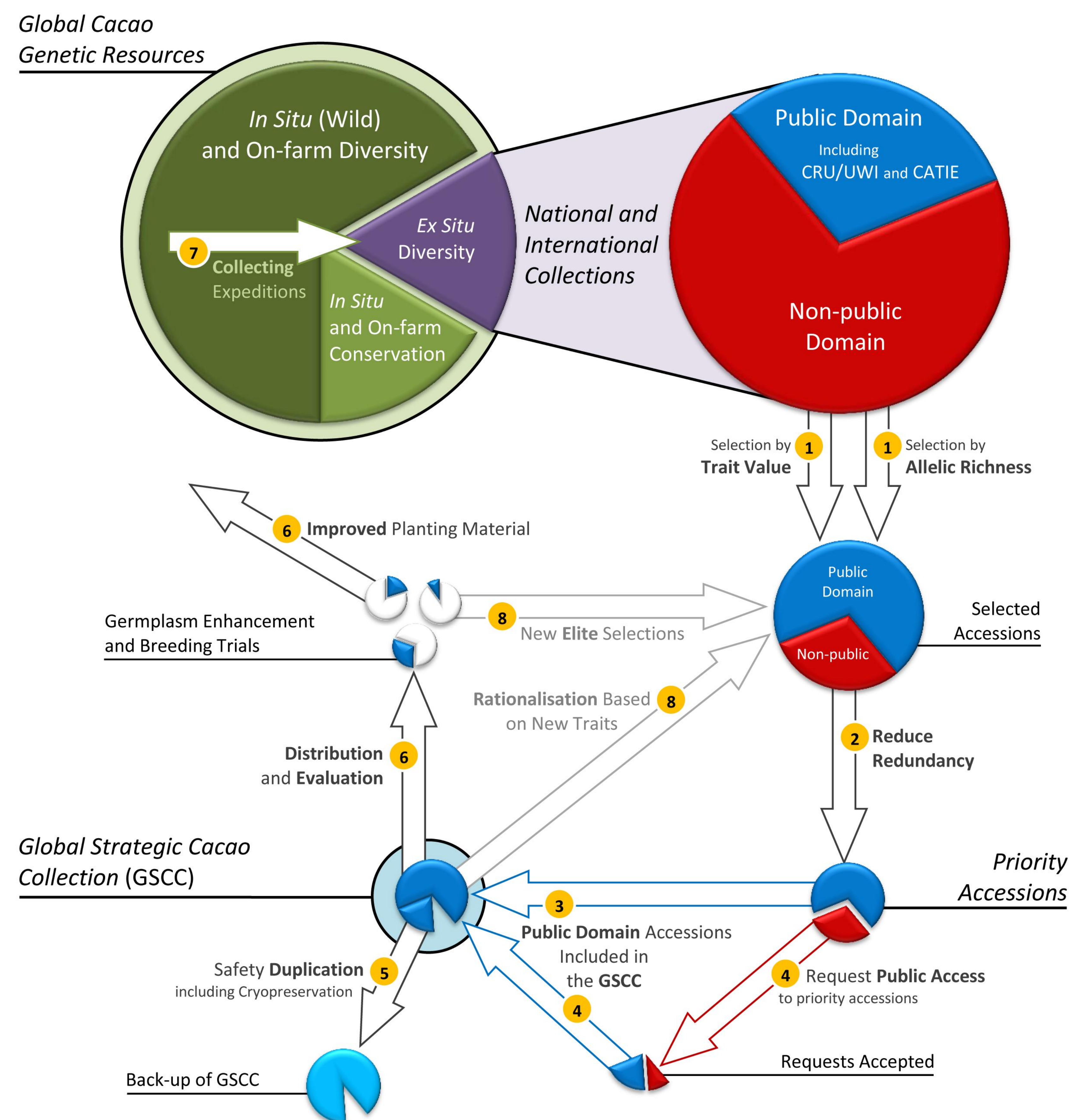
1. The cacao genepool is conserved *in situ* and *ex situ* for the long term by a global network of collections maintaining the most important diversity of cacao germplasm.
2. The global system for the safe exchange of cacao germplasm is strengthened.
3. The use of cacao genetic diversity is optimized.
4. The effectiveness of global efforts to conserve and use cacao genetic resources is assured.

Strategic Components:

1. Securing existing *ex situ* cacao genetic resources, particularly those held in the public domain, and their distribution.
2. Developing a Global Strategic Cacao Collection (GSCC).
3. Genetic diversity gap filling in *ex situ* collections and collecting.
4. Ensuring the *in situ* and on-farm conservation of important genetic diversity.
5. Strengthening the distribution mechanism and safe movement of germplasm.
6. Strengthening the use of the cacao genetic resources by providing support to breeders and key users through improved characterization, evaluation within collections and supporting population enhancement programmes.
7. Improving documentation and sharing of information on germplasm.
8. Strengthening the networking and partnerships for global collaboration.



A Global System for conservation and use:



What needs to be done:

The **annual recurrent management activities** are:

- Support for the on-going maintenance of the GSCC.
- Emergency support to safeguard threatened material.
- Management of the GSCC information portal.
- Maintenance of the cacao safe movement network (quarantine facilities).
- Support for priority collecting missions.
- Network of field evaluation trials of priority GSCC materials.
- Training and capacity building for GSCC partners.
- Global partnerships towards the Strategy implementation.



Photo: A. Eskes, Bioversity/CIRAD

The **research and capacity building activities** over the first three-years:

- Support for the *ex situ* collections partnering with the GSCC for linking to the GSCC information portal.
- Development of *in situ* and on-farm conservation strategies.
- Diversity analysis to complement existing knowledge and to identify gaps for priority collecting.
- Research on tissue culture methods for safe movement of germplasm.
- Establishment of the regional quarantine network.

A Global Strategy for whom?

The Global Strategy is an important document for the cocoa sector, to guide a coordinated global effort across international and national research organizations, donors, and the private sector. It identifies priorities for action and for funding that ensure the conservation, availability and use for improvement of cacao genetic diversity worldwide. CacaoNet facilitated a series of consultations with a wide group of experts in cacao genetic resources research and management in order to develop this complete Global Strategy.

For more information:

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