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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ANIMAL
GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

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**PREPARATION OF THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S
ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR COUNTRY REPORTS

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PREPARATION OF THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR COUNTRY REPORTS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Genetic resources are among the most valuable and strategically important assets that a Country holds. Many countries have indigenous animal species and breeds that could potentially contribute far more to food and agriculture production than they are currently contributing and meet much wider human needs. The FAO and its inter-governmental Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), which has 161 members and is the major international forum for developing policies on genetic resources for food and agriculture, has requested the preparation, through a country-driven process, of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. This Report will provide a foundation for setting country, regional and global priorities and assistance in maintaining and enhancing the contribution of animal genetic resources to food and agriculture.
2. The ultimate objective of this exercise is to develop national capacities and international co-operation to achieve the sustainable intensification of livestock production systems through the wise use and development of locally adapted animal genetic resources whilst taking into consideration the constraints and opportunities created by growing demands on the livestock sector and by changing climate, disease status and technologies.
3. These Guidelines are intended to help countries develop their Country Reports on animal genetic resources, which will provide the foundation for the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. The task is to go beyond description of the resources and analyze and report on the state of these resources and capacities to manage them, draw lessons from past experiences and identify problems and priorities. It provides also an important opportunity to look to the future and predict needs, demands, trends, and national capacity building requirements in all aspects of the management of animal genetic resources.
4. The Guidelines are presented here in draft for review and approval by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG-AnGR) of the CGRFA. National Co-ordinators for Animal Genetic Resources, who will help ensure preparation of Country Reports, have also been invited to comment on this draft and their comments will be collated and also provided to the Working Group. These guidelines will then be part of a package of documents, information and reporting tools, which will be sent to Countries to assist in the preparation of their Country Reports.

II. BACKGROUND, CONTEXT AND MANDATE

5. In 1990, FAO's Council recommended the preparation of a comprehensive programme for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources at the global level. A meeting of experts in 1992, and subsequent sessions of FAO's governing bodies, provided the impetus to initiate the development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources (Global Strategy) in 1993. The signing of UNCED Agenda 21 and the ratification of the Convention on Biological Diversity further encouraged the development and design of the Global Strategy. In 1995, the FAO's Committee on Agriculture reviewed the early development process and Council supported the Strategy, accepting the need to involve the broad spectrum of stakeholders and the need for additional funds from extra-budgetary sources to ensure its successful further development and implementation.

6. Within FAO, the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources was broadened in 1995, including animal genetic resources. In 1996, the importance of animal genetic resources and the Global Strategy were recognized at both the World Food Summit and the third meeting of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The FAO Conference requested the Director-General to establish an *Ad Hoc* Group of Experts on Animal Genetic Resources, which met 7-9 January 1997, to prepare for the future work of an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The *Ad Hoc* Group stressed the importance of establishing a strong intergovernmental mechanism to facilitate and promote better management of animal genetic resources at global, regional and national levels. At the Seventh Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), in May 1997, the Commission agreed to establish a subsidiary Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITWG-AnGR). The Working Group was given a mandate to provide recommendations on the further development of the Global Strategy to the Eighth Regular Session of the Commission in 1999 (see Table 1 for a schema of the Strategy's constituents).

7. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture met for the first time 8-10 September 1998. The Working Group recommended:

'that FAO co-ordinate the development of a country-driven *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, that could provide an assessment of countries animal genetic resources programmes and the state of domestic animal resources.'

8. **The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources also agreed on the need for preparation of guidelines, in consultation with countries, to be used for the collection and assembly of existing data and information for the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and recommended the further development of the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) to assist countries in the reporting process.**

9. *FAO's CGRFA, the Committee on Agriculture, Council and ultimately the Conference subsequently endorsed these recommendations.*

10. Moreover, at the 5th Conference of the Parties to the Convention of the Biological Diversity, through decision V/5 on agricultural biological diversity, the Conference of Parties endorsed the multi-year work programme on agricultural biological diversity, contributing to implementation of COP decision III/11. The four elements of the programme of work, namely Assessments, Adaptive Management, Capacity Building and Mainstreaming; have been developed "bearing in mind the need to build upon existing international plans of action, programmes and strategies that have been agreed by countries" and specifically notes the role of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources. The State on the World's Animal Genetic Resources process will directly contribute to the implementation of this decision in the area of AnGR.

11. The Report will generate national, regional and global assessments on the state of the AnGR, will assist in identification of needs for capacity building in their management and support development of national agricultural biodiversity strategies. It will contribute significantly to fulfilling country's obligations under the CBD in the area of AnGR sustainable use and conservation.

Table 1. Constituents of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources

Components:	Inter-governmental Mechanism	Country-based Planning & Implementation Infrastructure	Technical Programme of Work	Reporting & Evaluation
Elements:	<p>The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food & Agriculture</p> <p>Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources</p> <p>National Governments</p>	<p>Global Focal Point</p> <p>Regional Focal Points</p> <p>National Focal Points</p> <p>Donor & Stakeholders Involvement Mechanism</p> <p>DAD-IS</p>	<p>National Management Plans for AnGR</p> <p>Sustainable Intensification</p> <p>Characterization</p> <p>Conservation</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Emergency Plans & Response</p>	<p>First Report State of the World's AnGR</p> <p>Country Reports</p> <p>Country & Global Monitoring</p> <p>World Watch List - Early Warning System</p>
Capacity Building:	<p>Training & Education</p> <p>Technology Transfer</p>	<p>Guidelines</p> <p>Research</p>	<p>Data & Information Management</p> <p>Communications & Coordination</p>	
Technical Assistance:	<p>FAO Experts</p> <p>Expert Meetings</p> <p>Research</p>	<p>Informal Panel of Experts</p> <p>Advanced Data & Information Software</p>	<p>Cadres of Experts</p>	

III. PROPOSED OBJECTIVES, SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF COUNTRY REPORTS

A. OBJECTIVES

12. The **overall objectives** of the Country Reports, and ultimately of the first Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, are:

- to analyze and report on the state of animal genetic resources, on the status and trends of these resources, and on their current and potential contribution to food, agriculture and rural development;
- to assess the state of the country's capacity to manage these essential resources, in order to determine priorities for future capacity building; and
- to identify the national priorities for action in the field of sustainable conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources and related requirements for international co-operation.

13. The **specific objectives** of the Country Report should reflect the particular problems and needs of the country and may include:

- providing the Government and stakeholders with systematic information on the state of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, in the country as the basis for their policy and management decisions;
- establishing essential baseline data and information on the status of animal genetic diversity, which will expose gaps, and help to establish country, regional and global priorities for the management of animal genetic resources, as part of the overall objective of achieving and sustaining global food security;
- assessing the capacities of public and private institutions as well as those of farmers, individually and collectively, to manage these resources, identifying priorities for national capacity-building;
- examining the methodologies and technologies that are being employed, or are available, to better understand the value of, and better use, develop and conserve these resources, in a sustainable manner;
- increasing awareness of the many roles and values of animal genetic resources, and thereby promoting their better use, development and conservation;
- identifying the main directions of future national policies and programmes and determining priorities for action for government and all stakeholders concerned with animal genetic resources;
- promoting collaboration and co-operation among governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in the management of animal genetic resources;
- assisting in the identification and deployment to farmers of animal genetic resources that can increase production, productivity and product quality and maintain and enhance adaptive fitness of the livestock used throughout the full range of available production environments;

- improving understanding of the status of breeds that are currently not of value to farmers, and of wild relatives of domesticated animals, to provide the foundation for an Early Warning and Early Reaction Systems for Animal Genetic Resources at risk of being lost, and identify opportunities for the future use of these resources;
- identifying situations where an emergency response could be required, to prevent the loss of animal genetic resources at risk; and
- establishing the capacity and the information base for long-term monitoring, priority setting and regular reporting on the state of animal genetic resources .

B. SCOPE OF THE COUNTRY REPORT AND ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED

14. For the purpose of these Guidelines, **animal genetic resources (AnGR)** refer to those Avian and Mammalian species that are of interest to food and agriculture. The populations within each species can be classified as wild populations, feral populations, and breeds, including the populations described variously as landraces, selected lines, primary populations, standardized breeds, and any *in vivo* and *in vitro* conserved genetic material of those populations. In considering these animal genetic resources, it is recommended that the Country Report cover the related aspects of agricultural biodiversity, farm animal agricultural biodiversity, which are closely linked with these resources and may include: the production systems and the environments in which these resources are being used, the range of animal products and services which they provide, the consumption patterns and socio-cultural practices associated with them, the ecosystem functions which they sustain and their role in the structures and processes of agricultural production and food security of the country. While the report is not intended to describe all the facets of the animal production sector of the country, it should highlight those aspects in which the animal genetic resources play an essential role.

15. In line with the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources (Table 1), **the range of activities to be addressed** in the Country Report should go beyond the diverse activities of conservation of AnGR both *in situ* and *ex-situ*, their characterization and evaluation. It should also cover their use in production systems and for genetic improvement in livestock development, the related research and technology development and transfer, education and training, the information systems on AnGR including early warning and reaction mechanisms and related emergency operations, and the national institutional and regulatory framework in which these activities are taking place (for the definitions of these terms, see the Glossary in the Annex of the Executive Brief of the Global Strategy). These activities should not be confined to those of the public sector but include all the stakeholders concerned with AnGR: the private sector, NGOs and among them more particularly the associations of farmers.

16. Although the range of activities and stakeholders to be covered in the Country Report is quite broad, it is not intended to seek new information, for example by further field surveying of or research on breeds or further developing breed utilization activities. Rather, **the country status report should draw largely on existing data**, which would be collated and analyzed, using the many different sources available from the diverse stakeholders in the country. Moreover it is recommended to limit the descriptive elements in the Country Report to those which are essential to assess progress, to identify problems and gaps and to support the process of outlining policies, priorities and related requirements for further activities. For example, detailed information on the characteristics and performance of local breeds should be recorded in the national information system and in the FAO DAD-IS whereas the Country Report would essentially provide the list of breeds, and among them those characterized, those evaluated, those at risk, those in critical state, etc.

17. As to **the time frame**, it is essential in undertaking this work to look to the past, to the current situation, and to the future. It is suggested looking back about 10 years and forward 10 years to provide a perspective on where the country was in this field, where it is now, and where the country is going, in terms of the characterization, use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources. It is critical that the analysis goes beyond description of the resources if the Country Report and the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* (SOW-AnGR Report) are to serve as a foundation for better management and enhanced policy development of animal genetic resources, to maintain and enhance their overall contribution to food and agriculture and rural development.

18. **Fundamental strategic questions** must therefore be addressed: What is the current contribution of animal genetic resources to food and agriculture and rural development? What is the state of the resources – both the genetic resources and the production systems? Is production and productivity increasing, decreasing or remaining the same? How can the contribution of animal genetic resources to food and agriculture and rural development be enhanced – opportunities and obstacles? It is crucial during this analysis to raise on each point to be covered the following strategic questions: Where are we? Where do we need to be? How do we get to where we need to be?

C. STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTRY REPORTS

19. As many countries will be preparing Country Reports, there are obvious advantages in having a measure of uniformity of presentation in order to facilitate their compilation for the preparation of the SOW-AnGR Report. However, FAO recognizes that there are major differences among countries in many matters relevant to animal genetic resources and that these differences must be reflected in the Country Reports, thus not all aspects of the reports call for complete uniformity.

20. In line with the ITWG-AnGR recommendations, the SOW-AnGR report will provide an assessment in three major areas:

- a) the State of Diversity: an assessment of the state of conservation, erosion and utilization of farm animal agricultural biodiversity, and an analysis of the underlying processes;
- b) the State of Country Capacity to manage animal genetic resources including existing AnGR policies, management plans, institutional infrastructures, human resources and equipment; and
- c) the State of the Art and the available methodologies and technologies to assist farmers, breeders, scientists to better understand, use, develop, and conserve animal genetic resources, and thereby contribute to global food security and rural development.

21. The ITWG-AnGR emphasized the importance of the process itself in the preparation of the report. This process entails a series of steps such as: evaluating past activities; identifying present and future problems; elaborating appropriate policies and programmes; and assessing requirements for capacity building. This process should also enable the formulation of priorities for future national activities and international co-operation. It is proposed, therefore, that the Country Reports be structured in line with these recommendations and comprise five main parts as follows:

- **Part One** should report on **the State of genetic resources in the farm animal sector** covering both conservation *in situ* and *ex situ* and utilization aspects as well as the related techniques being used (state of the art), in the context of the diverse production systems and socio-economic conditions of countries.

- **Part Two** should analyze the changing and growing demands on the farm animal sector and determine the implications for future national policies and programmes concerning the conservation and utilization of farm animal genetic resources.
- **Part Three** should review the State of National Capacities related to farm animal genetic resources and make an overall assessment of capacity building requirements in the light of future policies and programmes outlined in Part Two.
- **Part Four** should identify the Priorities for the Development of an enhanced National Programme of sustainable conservation and utilization of genetic resources in the farm animal sector. These national priorities may cover diverse fields of activity, animal species and breeds as well as short term and long term needs for institution building, research, information system development, legislation, and regulations.
- **Part Five** should formulate the country's Recommendations for international co-operation and indicate the areas, levels and modes of co-operation which the country would wish to pursue, its proposed contributions and requirements.

IV. THE INTERACTIVE PROCESS OF PREPARATION OF THE COUNTRY REPORT

22. The preparation of the Country Report on the State of AnGR entails a series of steps which are part of the wider process of preparation of the SOW-AnGR Report as indicated in the **flow diagram below**. As a first step, before being adopted by the ITWG-AnGR, the State of the World Process including the guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports were initially drafted through a number of informal working sessions of experts and subsequently submitted in draft to the National Coordinators for AnGR whose collated comment will be also be made available to the second session of the ITWG-AnGR. The ITWG-AnGR at its second meeting in September 2000 should then provide guidance on the whole preparatory Process which includes the following elements as regards the Country Reports.

A. THE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT SYSTEM - DAD-IS

23. The information system DAD-IS will be further developed during the SOW-AnGR preparatory process in order to provide individual countries with information management and communication tools which should facilitate the preparation of Country Reports. In addition to being the source of basic breed characterisation, DAD-IS will provide countries with the following package:

- a set of relevant country information pre-collated from other FAO databases;
- databasing functionality to enable countries to collate data on which to base the development of the Country Report;
- a decision support system to aid countries in guiding the whole preparatory process;
- training functionality for developing capacity including a broader and more effective animal genetic resources network;
- functionality to enable countries to identify their major production environments;
- interaction functionality to establish and tactically involve the range of stakeholders;

- a range of flexible report formatting tools for use in the clear presentation of information;
- a database reporting tool enabling structured and broad involvement in developing the different sections of the Report; and finally,
- a permanent information and communication system to serve in the regular efficient SOW-AnGR updating process.

24. The involvement of individual countries in the overall State of the World Process and their use of the DAD-IS State of the World Reporting module will be strongly encouraged for this will also increase both the effectiveness and efficiency of the analysis, synthesis and Report publication processes, together with the future updating of the Report at the regional and global levels. The training functionality will also be valuable for the regional and global level training processes. Countries using DAD-IS will also obtain further assistance through direct access to the DAD-IS Moderator throughout the SOW-AnGR preparatory process.

25. This DAD-IS package will be supplemented with basic background documents (e.g. the Global Strategy), issue papers and lists of questions on specific subjects which may assist in the process of analysis and synthesis of information at national level.

B. THE APPOINTMENT AND BRIEFING OF THE NATIONAL FOCAL POINT

26. Each country wishing to participate in the SOW-AnGR Process will appoint, if it has not already done so, a **National Focal Point**, comprising one office as **the National Co-ordinating Institution** and within the office one person as the **National Co-ordinator**, respectively, for AnGR and the preparation of the Country Report. If this has not already been done, the Global SOW-AnGR Focal Point in FAO should be advised immediately upon government acceptance of the invitation to the Country to participate in the SOW-AnGR Process, of the name, postal address, electronic mail address, phone and fax numbers of the National Co-ordinator.

27. Countries will be invited to involve their key preparatory personnel responsible for co-ordinating the Country Report preparation in **regional consultations** (meetings and e-conferences) as may be required for training and in order to consult with their respective Regional Co-ordinator and with the Global Focal Point in FAO, familiarize themselves with the preparatory process and the guidelines, raise issues of substance, clarify modalities of preparation, discuss regional priorities and at a later stage review the regional synthesis made out of the Country Reports.

C. THE MECHANISMS AND PROCESS OF COUNTRY REPORTING

28. The State of the World module in DAD-IS should assist the country to establish, conduct and monitor the Reporting process. In addition and keeping in mind that the process involves both scientific and significant policy matters with financial implications, an **ad-hoc advisory committee** or an existing committee may be entrusted by the government with several tasks such as addressing the full range of issues involved, providing guidance on the preparatory process, reviewing progress and clearing the report. Ideally, the opinions and needs of all stakeholders would be represented and heard in such a committee.

29. The government should assemble representatives of all relevant interest groups for a **preliminary meeting** to discuss the task in general terms. Invitations to this first meeting should be sent to all potentially concerned parties and include at least the following:

- the relevant national planning authority or authorities;

- government agencies responsible for farm animal genetic resource utilization and conservation, and other relevant sectors (rangeland; wildlife and forestry; rural land use policy; indigenous culture; industry and trade; environment planning);
- the wider range of stakeholders, including: the private sector, non-governmental organizations, farmers and farmers' organizations, agricultural organizations and breeding associations, research and training organizations, international organizations located in or active in your country whom you feel may be able to contribute.

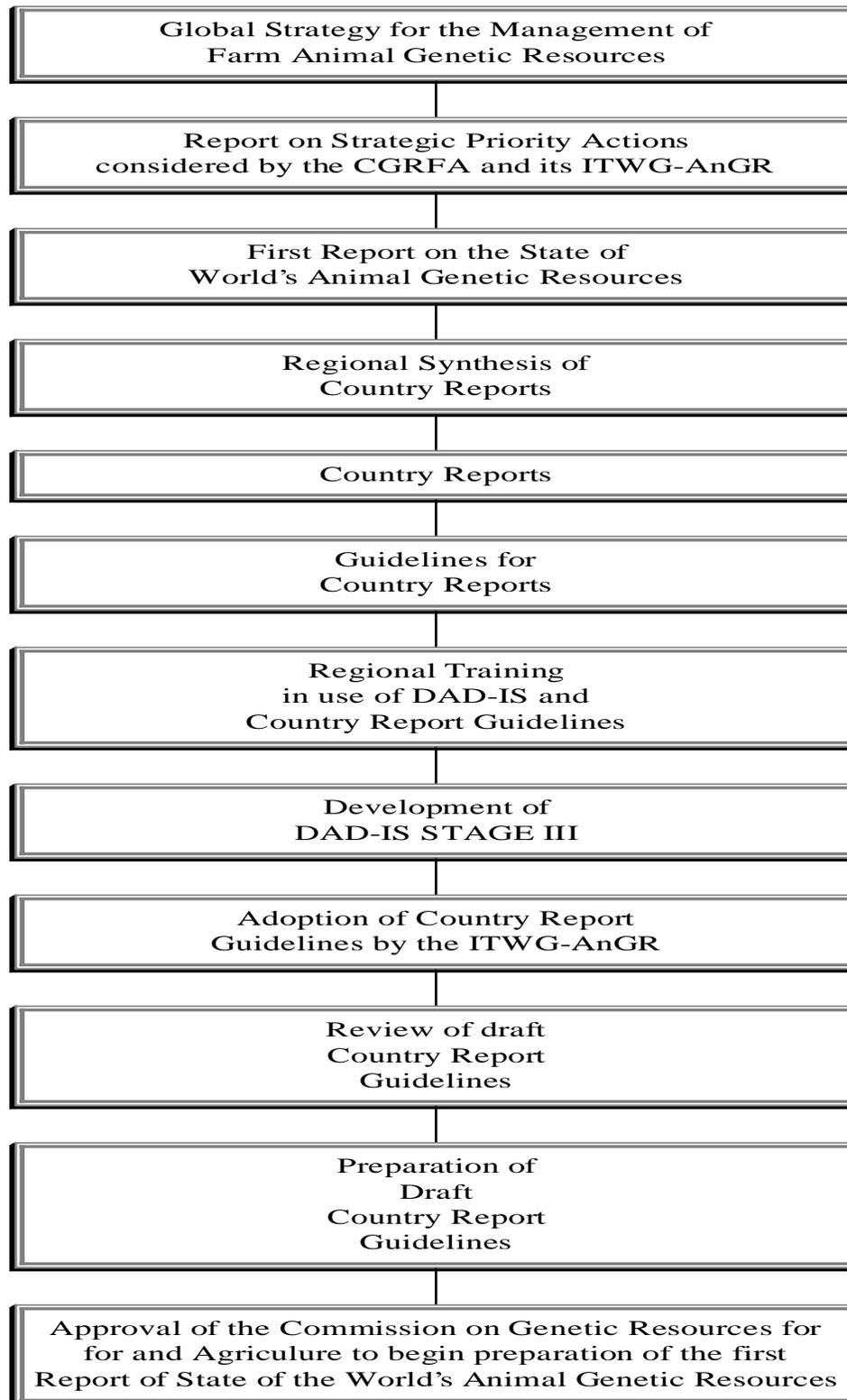
30. At this meeting - or soon after it - **a small co-ordinating group** should be established to co-ordinate the work of preparing the report and **2 or 3 people designated within this group to actually compile the Country Report**. The National Co-ordinator should be a member of this group but it may be preferable that he/she not be one of those responsible for actually compiling the report because of the amount of work involved. Each member of the co-ordinating group should review the Guidelines carefully, understand the purpose and nature of the task; and should be fully acquainted with the State of the World Reporting module in DAD-IS and the tools it offers to assist the reporting process and build capacity. The initiative and hard work of this co-ordinating group will be reflected in the quality of the Country Report.

31. The SOW-AnGR Co-ordinating Group should inform itself of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, of the relevant national strategies and policies associated with the sustainable use and conservation of Agricultural biodiversity which may exist and of the relevant international processes, especially UNCED Agenda 21 (chapter 14) *and* the Convention on Biological Diversity. It should **first establish the structure/outline of the Country Report including the scope and approximate length of each section and for each section of the report to designate the person(s) responsible to assemble information and prepare a draft so as to start work on all sections of the report at an early stage** leaving ample time for reflection and analysis (a common failing of endeavours such as this is that too much time is spent collecting background information, leaving too little time to analyse and make good use of it).

32. The SOW-AnGR Reporting module in DAD-IS provides for the managed development and evolution of the report preparation process through a succession of drafts of the Country Report. The SOW-AnGR Co-ordinating Group should meet frequently to review progress and consult widely outside as necessary. The SOW-AnGR networking facility in DAD-IS should enable the group to communicate with stakeholders and monitor activity to efficiently manage the consultation process and the additional information this process generates. If a specific problem arises, an *ad hoc* working group, could be set up by the Chair of the SOW-AnGR Co-ordinating Group with very specific terms of reference and a deadline date for reporting, to deal with it.

33. Provision should be made at an early stage for the final review, government clearance and printing of the Country Report including, if necessary, the designation of one or more external reviewers, of a translator in one of the official languages of FAO and of an editor.

34. *N.B. Subject to resource constraints, FAO may be able to assist in this Report preparation process, but only if the invitation to do so comes from the government of country itself. Very limited funds may be available to provide financial support to Country Report preparation meetings, especially those involving scientists, NGOs, the private sector, farmers groups, etc., in addition to government officials. Some on-site expert assistance may also be available. If assistance is required, The Secretariat, First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, FAO, Rome, may be contacted by the National Co-ordinator to discuss the country's plans and needs, prior to possible formal approach to FAO.*



V. ASSESSING THE STATE OF AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY IN THE FARM ANIMAL SECTOR OF THE COUNTRY

35. The guidelines presented in this Section V refer to the preparation of **Part One** of the Report as described in Section III-C. Countries which previously contributed to the first Report on the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources can link through DAD-IS to their Country Report and the State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources Report. The Introduction Section to that Country Report, in particular, may assist in preparing the Introduction Section of the Animal Genetic Resources Country Report. The DAD-IS SOW-AnGR Reporting module will also enable countries to collate a platform of critical data on which to base the development of the relevant sections of the Country Report. The DAD-IS SOW-AnGR Reporting module is provided to assist countries to expand involvement in the analysis and synthesis process, and to facilitate the distribution, regular updating and broader use of the Country Report in action planning.

36. It is recommended to limit the descriptive elements in Part One to those considered essential for an **assessment** of the situation and the identification of gaps and problems, whereas more detailed information and technical data should be recorded in the national DAD-IS, based upon the Background Questions to Support Preparation of Country Reports. While the structure and contents of Part One largely depend on the country conditions, it is suggested to follow a common process including a series of steps as outlined below in order to facilitate later on the compilation of Country Reports.

A. OVERVIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S ANIMAL PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND RELATED ANIMAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

37. Before addressing the aspects of conservation and utilization of AnGR, the general picture of the animal production sector in the country should be reviewed. This overview should cover the diversity of production-processing and consumption/use patterns existing in the country as regards animal species and animal products; the production systems associated with diverse agro-ecosystems and socio-economic conditions and the related diversity of farm animal species and breeds associated with them; the diversity of their outputs, ecological functions and services performed and their role in the national economy.

B. ASSESSING THE STATE OF CONSERVATION OF FARM ANIMAL BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

38. This step should include the identification of the species and types of breeds in the country (locally adapted, recently introduced and wild relatives) and status (endangered, at risk, not at risk); an analysis of their conservation status *in situ* and *ex situ* and the techniques and management practices used to this effect; an assessment of the achievements and gaps in conservation; a review of the progress in characterisation of breeds and evaluation of risks; an evaluation of the information systems development for breed conservation, their use and linkages.

C. ASSESSING THE STATE OF UTILIZATION OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

39. The state of use of breeds by species, their performance, importance, contribution to food production and agriculture services and other contributions should be reviewed as well as the trends in their utilization. The related breeding systems and techniques in use, their objectives, achievements and problems should be examined and evaluated as well as the state of this genetic development work by species and related research activities; and an evaluation of the information systems development for breed utilization, their use and linkages.

D. IDENTIFYING THE MAJOR FEATURES AND CRITICAL AREAS OF ANGR
CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION

40. *The steps outlined above should provide the information and data required from different sources and regions in the country. Most of the material and data collected should not be included in the Report and be stored for current and future assessment in the information system. Out of these, the key elements of assessment should be selected, retained and summarized for inclusion in the Country Report for the overall evaluation of the state of AnGR in the country highlighting the major problems of the present situation. Essential data may also be in the Country Report in the form of tables.*

**VI. ANALYZING THE CHANGING DEMANDS ON NATIONAL LIVESTOCK
PRODUCTION AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE NATIONAL POLICIES,
STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES RELATED TO AnGR**

41. The guidelines presented below refer to the preparation of **Part Two** of the Report as described in section III-C. A four-step process is suggested of review and formulation of national policies, strategies and programmes in the field of AnGR. Again this does not imply that the Country Report should present all the findings and results of each step in this process. Rather, the report should merely explain the rationale which leads to important changes and new initiatives and outlines essentially the main thrusts of future national AnGR policies and Management Plan.

A. REVIEWING PAST POLICIES, STRATEGIES, PROGRAMMES, AND MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES (AS RELATED TO ANGR)

42. The purpose of this first step should be to identify the causes of, and draw lessons from, past failures and successes in conserving, using and developing AnGR. In particular, the benefits to farmers, consumers and country economy of past and present breeding methods and use of local *versus* exotic breeds for the important species should be analysed in the diverse modes of production as well as their impact on animal biological diversity and on the environment.

B. ANALYZING FUTURE DEMANDS AND TRENDS

43. The demands and supply trends (type, quality and quantity) for diverse animal products and services in the country and world markets are changing as a result of parallel changes in population patterns, socio-economic conditions, consumer demands, existing and new constraints (e.g. health, environmental standards) and opportunities (e.g. new technologies in production and processing, new consumer demands). As a result the animal production sector is evolving rapidly and calls for a critical analysis of the continuing validity of present systems of production in particular as regards the place and role of AnGR in these systems.

44. In order to facilitate this analysis, FAO will provide the countries through DAD-IS with relevant background material and data such as statistics, issue papers and recent perspective studies of the animal sector prepared by FAO and other institutions. Regional consultations and communications with the Regional Co-ordinator and the Global Focal Point should provide opportunities to broaden the analysis of future demands and trends in the country's animal sector and critically review past policies and production systems in relation with the conservation and utilization (use and development) of AnGR.

45. In particular when a National Management Action Plan for AnGR is established, it should be reviewed in the light of this analysis.

C. DISCUSSION OF ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES IN THE CONSERVATION, USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ANGR

46. The analysis of the future trends in the animal production sector provides the basis for outlining the diverse avenues in the farm animal sector for coping with changing demands and new challenges and considering different ways and degrees in conserving and using AnGR in the country environments. The pros and cons of alternative strategies (benefits to farming communities, consumers, role of public and private sectors) should be discussed as well as the comparative advantages of diverse species, breeds and breeding methods associated with diverse production systems in meeting future demands. A long-term perspective should be adopted in this process including the consideration of the prospects and issues created by the development and use of reproductive and molecular biotechnologies and rapidly evolving information and communications technologies.

D. OUTLINING FUTURE NATIONAL POLICY, STRATEGY AND MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE CONSERVATION, USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF ANGR

47. The result of the above process should be to review and, where necessary, to elaborate and/or re-formulate the national approach to and modalities of AnGR conservation, use and development in the country, outlining the future directions for their sustainable management. The SOW-AnGR Coordinating Group should play a key role in promoting this process in cooperation with the diverse contributors and other stakeholders involved in the preparation of the Country Report. Expertise from national and foreign sources may be required to provide advice. The SOW-AnGR Coordinating Group should also ensure overall policy guidance is provided from the government. The regional consultations planned among the SOW-AnGR Coordinating Groups may provide opportunities to discuss policies and strategies and identify common requirements and opportunities for cooperation.

48. The constituents of the national strategy resulting from the above process should in general reflect, as appropriate, those of the Global Strategy developed under the auspices of the ITWG-AnGR and CGRFA, with specific thrusts to address the particular objectives and needs of the country. The Country Report should not describe in detail the rationale and content of national policies, strategies, and management plans, rather it should highlight the aspects which support the country's requirements and opportunities for further international cooperation in particular in such areas as capacity building, exchange of information and material, research and technology development and transfer, and regulatory frameworks.

VII. REVIEWING THE STATE OF NATIONAL CAPACITIES AND ASSESSING FUTURE CAPACITY BUILDING REQUIREMENTS

49. The assessment of national capacities should be made in the light of future policies, strategies and management plans as determined in the Part Two, as future national programmes and the present national capacities should determine the requirements and opportunities for capacity building. No specific guidelines are proposed but this area will be addressed during regional workshops. The SOW-AnGR Co-ordinating Group should involve the whole range of stakeholders concerned both in the public and private sectors in the process of assessment of national capacities.

50. Depending on the country's circumstances and conditions, the process may cover several of the following points:

- The present institutional set-up related to AnGR (public and private) relations/linkages with other elements of the farm animal sector (local, national, international). Future organizational structure requirements. Institutional development needs and opportunities.

- The human resources and manpower requirements. Present staff. Level of education, training and experience. Bottlenecks in human resource development. Future requirements.
- The infrastructure, equipment and technologies used (state of the art). Assessment of present capacities against present performance and future needs.
- Information systems and communication facilities (ditto as iii above).
- Education and research facilities (ditto as iii above).
- Legislation and regulations affecting AnGR conservation, use and development. Present situation and future needs.
- International co-operation and trade arrangements in the field of AnGR. Existing co-operative links with foreign countries and national/international institutions. Evaluation of results and gaps.

51. The descriptive material and the list of capacity building requirements to be included in the Country Report should be kept to the minimum required for the assessment of the present situation and priority needs and opportunities. Other detailed information should be included in the national information system and in DAD-IS and used in the formulation of specific requests for support to national capacity building endeavours.

VIII. IDENTIFYING NATIONAL PRIORITIES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND UTILIZATION OF AnGR

52. The process of priority setting should be based on future national policies and directions of work (Part Two) and assessing capacity building requirements (Part Three). The priority setting should involve several stages of consultations of stakeholders at several levels and in different sub-sectors and activity areas. The list below is illustrative and indicative of possible priorities and how they may be grouped for presentation in the Country Report; the contents of this section will of course depend on the country situation, policy, objectives and strategy.

A. NATIONAL CROSS-CUTTING PRIORITIES

53. *These may include for example:*

- Institutional development and capacity building.
- Filling knowledge and information gaps.
- Raising awareness.
- Mainstreaming AnGR activities into/within the overall national animal production strategy and programmes.
- Focussing and strengthening conservation efforts (*in situ* and *ex situ*).
- Focussing and strengthening sustainable use and development of AnGR.
- Development of national policy, legislation, regulations and procedures.

B. NATIONAL PRIORITIES AMONG ANIMAL SPECIES, BREEDS, COUNTRY'S REGIONS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

54. These may include, for example:

- Emergency conservation requirements (rescue operations for endangered breeds).
- Essential activities with high potential impact in the short/medium- term (e.g. providing support services and incentives to rural communities for the sustainable management of local breeds).
- Critical needs for the longer term conservation and sustainable use (e.g. the measurement of domestic animal diversity (MODAD) and valuation studies, comparative breed assessments, development of sustainable breeding programmes (low-, medium- and high-input levels), development of *ex-situ* conservation techniques (germ and somatic tissues and tissue products); and development of quantitative breeding methods.

IX. FORMULATING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCED INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FARM ANIMAL BIODIVERSITY

55. Recommendations may cover bilateral, regional, inter-regional and global co-operation and both an assessment of ongoing co-operation and what the country can offer and would require for further co-operation development. This section would also provide the country's comments and recommendations on the Global Strategy. The list below is given for illustrative purpose only:

- Supporting national capacity building efforts.
- Co-operation and equitable sharing of burden and benefits in conservation, characterization and evaluation, and in genetic development.
- Co-operation in basic research and appropriate biotechnology development and transfer.
- Co-operation in development of information systems and communication networks.
- International principles and modalities for the safe international movement, storage, access, fair exchange and trade of AnGR material.
- Mobilization of international clearing house/follow-up and funding mechanism(s), existing or new, in support of AnGR co-operation activities.

X. OTHER ELEMENTS SUGGESTED FOR INCLUSION IN THE COUNTRY REPORT

56. In the introduction of the Report, it is suggested to indicate briefly how the Report was prepared and refer to an annex giving the list of institutions and persons involved in the process of preparation with their address, fax number and E-mail address. In addition, an executive summary giving the main findings and recommendations would be highly desirable.

57. Besides the usual list of references and other sources of information, annexes may be added to the Report to provide important additional information, maps, diagrams, relevant national statistics and other illustrative material, supplementing what is included in the main body of the report, particularly Parts One, Two, Three, and Four. This additional material may also be compiled in the DAD-IS SOW-AnGR Reporting module for use in the further development of the Country's information platform for use in action planning and policy.

58. A few short case studies (e.g. success stories or critical cases) of general interest may also find their place in the annexes and could be used later on for illustration (boxes) in the Global SOW-AnGR report. Brief outlines of priority project ideas for international co-operation and national emergency requirements may also supplement some of the recommendations presented in Part Five.

59. As the Report will be provided to FAO and be available publicly, material of a confidential nature should not be included in the report. Country security of specific confidential data can also be declared using the DAD-IS databases. If a government wishes to convey confidential information to FAO, it is suggested that it be provided under with a letter to the Director General need for confidentially (attention to the Director of the Animal Production and Health Division).

XI. CONCLUDING REMARKS AND ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS

60. **Consistency:** Country Reports will be much more useful in the preparation of the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* if they all follow a consistent framework and process as suggested in this document so as to facilitate comparisons and synthesis at regional and global levels. However, although these guidelines suggest elements to be addressed in Country Reports, not all these suggestions will be relevant to all countries. **It is strongly suggested that the Country Report should not address points on which there is has nothing significant to report merely because these points are included in the Guidelines.** The guidelines were deliberately presented not in the form of a questionnaire but as a series of steps to cover a set of subject areas in a dynamic process of assessment, policy formulation and priority setting. In the framework of DAD-IS, questions are provided as a means to help shape the country's response and to provoke rigorous, creative analysis.

61. **Length:** It is suggested that the Country Report be as brief as possible. It should **not** exceed **60 pages. 25-30 pages** is the recommended optimum size for the main body of the Report without the annexes. The smaller it is, the more effective it will be, simply because it will be more easy to have it widely distributed and read. No guidelines are proposed as to the length of the main sections of the Report but it is anticipated that the sections which report on the State Diversity (Part One) and on the State of Capacity (Part Three) will necessarily be longer than the other sections.

62. **Style:** To keep the report within the recommended length, the style should be focused, direct and succinct. To achieve maximum impact it should be analytical, practical and realistic. The guidelines suggest many points that should be addressed **before** deciding what to write. It is **not** being proposed that the Report be presented in the form of answers to all the points listed in the guidelines.

63. **Coverage:** the Country Report is part of the national contribution to the preparation of the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Therefore, it should dissect out the national priorities and the country's proposals for international action. It should not dwell on domestic issues that could be resolved domestically. It is hoped, however, that the process outlined in the above guidelines not only will contribute to a global assessment and enhanced international action but also will assist individual countries in launching a process of sustainable management of their AnGR and strengthening of their national programmes and international co-operation in this field.

64. **Timeline:** The Commission *will* establish the time table for the whole process of preparation of the SOW-AnGR so as to allow for sufficient time for the preparation of Country Reports and their compilation. *Subject to approval by the Commission, it is anticipated that* the preparatory process for Country Reports will be launched in September 2000 and the deadline for the submission of the Country Reports will be 31st December 2001. Submission of all the Country

Reports by that date will be essential so as to ensure that each and every Country Report will be given adequate attention in the preparation of the SOW-AnGR. The occurrence of some gaps in a Country Report should not delay its submission as these gaps may be filled during the interactive process of consultations, which will follow among the National and Regional Co-ordinators and the Global Focal Point.

65. **Follow-up:** Completion and submission of Country Reports on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources should not be considered the end of a process, rather should be perceived as the beginning of a broader process. To ensure continued involvement of countries and stakeholders in the development of the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and most importantly to ensure effective implementation of strategic priorities identified during the preparation of the Country Report, the following activities are planned:

66. The Global Focal Point will ensure that all National Co-ordinators and other persons identified by countries and relevant international organizations, will be involved in further consultations throughout preparation of the draft *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and on issues which emerge during the preparation of this Report.

67. A Strategic Priority Action Interim Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources will be produced and reviewed by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources and the Commission. This Report will contain strategic priorities for immediate action.

68. The Global Focal Point will maintain a dedicated unit for State of the World Activities, which will also assist in preparing for follow-up action and early response to the strategic priorities contained within the Strategic Priority Action Interim Report. The unit will *inter alia*; assist in mobilizing necessary financial resources, undertake project preparatory assistance and project formulation missions, provide other technical assistance, mobilize and promote relevant research, and promote awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources, within the development of the Global Strategy.

69. The Global Strategy will be continued to be shaped and defined including providing additional functionality in DAD-IS to better support national activities, and other elements of the Global Strategy to achieve the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources.

70. The Global Focal Point will support and facilitate the communications networks that are established among the National Co-ordinators as a result of SOW-AnGR activities; and

71. the Global Focal Point will use a variety of means to ensure countries are kept informed of progress in developing the Strategic Priority Action Interim Report and the first *Report on the State of Animal Genetic Resources*, as well as international events related to AnGR.

72. **Contacts:** A broad range of information on the SOW-AnGR Process and key contact persons within the Country (developed by the National Co-ordinator and SOW-AnGR Coordinating Group), Regionally and at Global level will be available through the SOW-AnGR Reporting module of DAD-IS Stage 3. Interactive SOW-AnGR advice will be available via online DAD-IS and by e-mail through the DAD-IS Moderator. Correspondence matters should be addressed to the SOW-AnGR Co-ordinator, FAO, Rome.