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COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 3.2 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Seventh Session

Rome, 24-26 October 2012

DRAFT TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

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DRAFT TECHNICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) endorsed five technical guidelines on the management of animal genetic resources and encouraged countries to make use of the guidelines.¹ In endorsing the Report of the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, the Commission requested FAO to further develop technical guidelines on the management of animal genetic resources, including on animal identification, traceability and performance recording and on *in vivo* conservation of animal genetic resources, and to continue updating and developing the DAD-IS manual.² The Commission also requested FAO to continue capacity-building and training activities on the management of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.³

2. FAO has developed draft guidelines on *in vivo* conservation of animal genetic resources, as given in document, *Draft guidelines on in vivo conservation of animal genetic resources*⁴. The guidelines have been tested and validated at a wide number of regional capacity-building and training activities and expert meetings. The draft guidelines were used as reference material at capacity building workshops held in India (October 2010), Ethiopia (December 2010) and the Netherlands (June 2011) and at expert meetings in Ethiopia (November 2011) and Chile (December 2011). Finally, the draft guidelines were reviewed through an electronic conference, which ran from January to March 2012.⁵

3. The draft guidelines propose two changes to the FAO system for classification according to risk of extinction. First, the new risk category "Vulnerable" is introduced, for breeds with population sizes large enough to avoid being considered "Endangered", but yet sufficiently small to merit particular attention and action. Second, the draft guidelines propose assigning species to two different classes according to reproductive capacity and to increase for the lowly-productive species the thresholds for numbers of breeding females or total population size that are used to assign risk category.

4. Draft guidelines on animal identification, traceability and recording are currently under preparation and will be made available to the Working Group at its Eighth session.⁶

II. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

5. The Working Group may wish to

- Review the Draft Guidelines on *in vivo* conservation and recommend that the Commission endorse them, including the proposed modifications to the FAO risk classification system, and request FAO to finalize and publish them;
- Request FAO to implement the new risk classification system in DAD-IS; and
- Recommend that FAO maintain the DAD-IS manual updated.

¹ CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 79.

² CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 71; and CGRFA/WG-AnGR-6/10/Report, paragraph 21.

³ CGRFA-13/11/Report, paragraph 77.

⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-7/12/Inf.6.

⁵ For details see CGRFA/WG-AnGR-7/12/Inf.2.

⁶ For details see CGRFA/WG-AnGR-7/12/Inf.2.