



THE GLOBAL PLAN OF **ACTION** FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

**Rare Breeds International**  
Working together  
to sustain endangered native breeds



**PRIORITIES**

- Acting as the global “umbrella” non-governmental organization (NGO) to coordinate and build on the activities of regional and national members since the foundation of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST) in the United Kingdom in 1973.
- Assisting in the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.
- Maintaining a communication network with partners and stakeholders, including governmental, intergovernmental and NGO bodies, to maximize cooperative efforts to conserve native animal genetic resources.



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**CHARACTERIZATION, INVENTORY AND MONITORING OF TRENDS AND ASSOCIATED RISKS**

- Monitor primary indicators of risk to animal genetic resources with early warning mechanisms for endangerment thresholds using RBST’s procedure of annual breed surveys.
- Build databanks from regional and global information, particularly genetic and environmental data, to identify and utilize native adaptation of local breeds.
- Develop genetic profiles for each breed including alleles potentially at risk as a result of legislation (e.g. prion protein).



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**SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT**

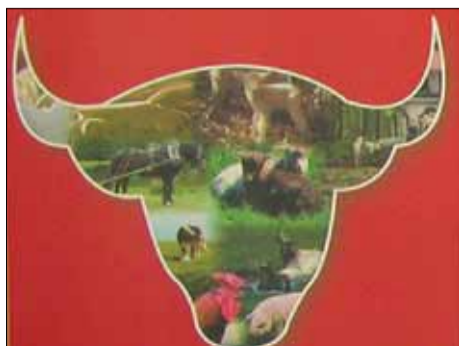
- Evaluate distinctive traits of breeds at risk through phenotypical, biochemical and performance assessment.
- Demonstrate the potential commercial value of native breeds through research and marketing. Use RBST’s meat marketing scheme (1994) as a blueprint.
- Promote the value of locally adapted breeds in non-intensive systems and for landscape management.
- Reinforce the heritage significance of native breeds in farm parks.



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**CONSERVATION**

- Maintain on-farm *in vivo* populations as a priority.
- Expand complementary *ex situ* stores as insurance against major catastrophes.
- Encourage use of the genetic impact protocol developed by South Africa to protect native animal genetic resources.
- Use DNA profiles to protect genetic integrity of breeds and for product assurance.
- Take direct action in emergency situations (e.g. Turkmen horses in the Islamic Republic of Iran).



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**POLICIES, INSTITUTIONS AND CAPACITY BUILDING**

- Foster links between keepers of endangered animal genetic resources and scientific/academic centres.
- Convene international and regional conferences and meetings to facilitate networking and information exchange. International conferences are held at three-year intervals.
- Standardize criteria and thresholds for breeds at risk, to build on the London seminar (2010) convened by RBI, RBST and the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources.

