Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of Animal Genetic Resources

InterGovernmental Technical Working Group
26th – 28th November 2014
Background

Africa’s rich Animal Genetic Resource

- Different species, breeds
- Vast range of adaptations

Essential to food security and livelihoods in Africa

Livestock does hold promise to alleviate poverty and contribute to food and nutritional security
The Overall objective is to enhance the contribution of livestock to food security and economic growth in Africa.

This will be through strengthening the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalizing national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments.
Duration and coverage

- 5 years (2013 – 2018)
- Funded by European Union (EU) and African Union Commission (AUC)
- Geographical Coverage: 54 African Member States
Facilitate and fast track the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for sustainable use of AnGR in Africa

Build capacity of RECs and Member States for effective formulation and implementation of policies and strategies for the management of AnGR and create awareness for its inclusion into national and regional agricultural investment priorities

The project will build consensus on the methodology and tools for the characterization and inventory of AnGR

The project will partner with other projects, global forums to create access and also disseminate information
AU-IBAR through the Genetics project aims at ensuring:

1. The status and trends of animal genetic resources in Africa established
2. Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed
3. National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established
4. Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction is promoted
Establish the state of AnGR in Africa to identify threatened breeds and breeds at risk of extinction

An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of AnGR including genetic improvement of livestock in Africa

Assessment of the genetic impact of livestock production systems (i.e. intensification systems with utilization of exotic breeds), and movements of animal populations (linked to transhumance and commercialization) on local/indigenous AnGR resource base

Assessment of local breeds selection and breeding programs impact on animal genetic diversity and socio-economic status in Africa
Policy frameworks

- Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies

- Develop regional frameworks and policies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation

- Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials
Support MS to establish and implement their National Action Plans (NAP) for AnGR within their livestock policies

Support MS to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their NAPs for AnGR

Support the development of regional conservation policy and strategic frameworks for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk

Support the establishment of regional facilities for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage and establish a gene bank on AnGR

Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders’ associations
Knowledge, attitude and practice

- Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for characterization and inventory of AnGR
- Establishment of AnGR information system
- Establish and strengthen national and regional systems for monitoring of trends of breeds and associated risks
- Develop regional networks for information sharing
- Establish or strengthen Regional Focal Points for animal genetic resources
- Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt from animal genetic conservation and improvement initiatives
Achievements

- Contribution to the Status and trends;
  - Inception workshop – training of NCs SoW-AnGR questionnaire and submission guidelines
  - Facilitation workshop – 41 CRs successfully submitted and contributed to Africa’s representation in the 2nd SoW-AnGR Report
  - Coordinated efforts for the update of DAD-IS with member states -10 Countries submitted
Achievements

- Policy issues
  - Workshop on consultative discussions of policies & legislative frameworks impacting on AnGR in Southern Africa

- Conservation
  - Assessments of conservation facilities in 13 countries conducted - Uganda, Ethiopia, Botswana, Tanzania, Cameroun, Rwanda, South Africa, Kenya, Mauritania, Niger, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Chad
  - Developed strategy for African gene banking
Proposed physical and virtual genebanks
Achievements

- Mapping current breeders associations on the continent
- African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS)
  - Roadmap developed (ILRI) – Consultative meeting in January 2014
  - Needs assessment has been completed
  - Proposed prototype of AAGRIS developed
Achievements

- Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring
  - Technical Workshop and e-discussion - improving the utilization of AnGR tools through Revision and harmonization of tools across the African Continent
Achievements

- Sub Regional Focal points
  - Regional workshops and General Assemblies - Strengthening/establishment of S-RFPs (Central, Western, Eastern, Southern and Northern Africa)
Achievements

- **Roundtable meeting** - implementing partners and AU-IBAR strategic meeting

- **Visibility and communication**
  - Genetics Project webpage
  - www.au-ibar.org/angr
  - Project visibility materials
Project team

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Dr. N’Guetta Bosso – Technical Assistant
Dr. Mary Mbole-Kariuki – Data Management Expert
Thank You

AU-IBAR: Providing leadership in the development of animal resources for Africa