



The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources

Preparation of Country Reports and nomination of National Focal Points

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has the honour to refer to the request of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries, to prepare a report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources*, and to draw attention to the CGRFA's request to nominate a National Focal Point for the preparation of a *Country Report on the State of Aquatic Genetic Resources*.

These activities are a vital aspect of Article XI of the FAO Constitution on communication of information by Members, and complement the ongoing work on the *Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries* that was endorsed by the Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Council in June 2003, the *Strategy and Outline Plan for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Aquaculture* endorsed by the Hundred and Thirty-second session of the FAO Council in 2007 and the biennial reporting on *The State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA)* of the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department.

Furthermore, the CGRFA, at its Thirteenth Regular Session, requested that work towards the preparation of *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources* be continued, initially by focusing on cultured aquatic species, and agreed that *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources* be launched in 2017, as foreseen in the CGRFA's Multi-Year Programme of Work.

The National Focal Points will be invited to contribute to *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources* by preparing a *Country Report on the State of Aquatic Genetic Resources*. Guidelines for the preparation of Country Reports will be prepared and provided to the National Focal Points. They will also be made available on the CGRFA website (www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa). The Organization wishes to emphasize the importance of the Country Report preparation as a national strategic tool for aquatic genetic resources conservation and management, and the need to establish national coordinating mechanisms to ensure opportunities for the participation of national stakeholders in the preparation of the Country Report.

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For ACTION/INFORMATION, as appropriate:

- Main Addressees (Ministers for Foreign Affairs or Agriculture or other addressees selected by the Government);
- Permanent Representatives to FAO/Embassies

Countries are kindly requested to nominate their National Focal Point by 3 September 2012. This information and any queries should be sent to:

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