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Organisation  
des  
Nations  
Unies  
pour  
l'alimentation  
et  
l'agriculture

Organización  
de las  
Naciones  
Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
Alimentación

### Item 3.2 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

## COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Ninth Regular Session

Rome, 14 – 18 October 2002

### PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FARM ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

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## **Progress Report on the Development of the First Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources in the Context of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In April 1999, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture noted that animal genetic resources are of crucial importance for the sustainable utilization of many production systems, and are essential components for achieving global food security and rural development. The Commission also noted that the erosion of animal genetic resources was a threat to global food security, and agreed that FAO should coordinate the development of a country-driven *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Noting the urgent need for guidance to assist countries to participate in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, the Commission requested that guidelines be developed in consultation with countries, and that the guidelines be reviewed by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources during their Second Session.
2. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (Working Group), at its Second Session in September 2000, considered the proposed scope and content of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and agreed on the process for its preparation. The Working Group also agreed on a timeline and an indicative budget, which was based on a combination of Regular Programme funding and extra-budgetary resources. The Working Group agreed that the basis for the first *Report* would be Country Reports, and recommended that FAO finalize guidelines for Country Reports considering the advice provided by the Working Group. The Working Group also agreed that FAO should prepare, based on a synthesis of Country Reports, a Report on Strategic Priority Actions to assist governments and organizations in responding to high priority areas of common interest and concern, in advance of completion of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.
3. The Working Group recommended that it meet to review the Report on Strategic Priority Actions prior to it being presented to the Commission at its Tenth Regular Session. The Working Group also recommended that it provide advice on the final content and form of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* to assist the Commission. The Working Group noted that extra-budgetary financial support was essential to assist developing countries in preparing their Country Reports, and to ensure all other key activities necessary to prepare the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* are undertaken.
4. The purpose of this document is to report to the Commission on the progress that has been made in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, and to seek the approval of the Commission on the proposed next steps that are required to complete the *Report*. A possible set of recommendations regarding the further development of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, is contained in the last section of the document.

## II. PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

5. FAO has committed the Animal Production and Health Division (AGA) as the Global Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources to coordinate the overall preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. The Global Focal Point (consisting of the Animal Genetic Resources Group in AGA) has been mandated to facilitate the preparation of the Country Reports as the first critical step in the process. All countries were invited by the Director-General of FAO in March 2001 to join in this process and to submit to FAO, a government-endorsed Country Report. As of May 2002, 116 countries have indicated that they will prepare such a Report.

6. To assist countries in preparing their Reports, FAO has developed *Guidelines for Country Reports*. The preparation of the *Guidelines* was initiated through a workshop involving a small number of experts. Draft guidelines that emerged from the workshop were distributed to National Coordinators for animal genetic resources for comments and inputs. The Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources reviewed the draft guidelines during its Second Session in 2000. The Working Group accepted the draft guidelines noting the need for flexibility to accommodate the needs and priorities of countries, especially in relation to the species to be addressed in Country Reports (while it is recognized that several taxonomic animal groups contribute to human survival and well-being and thus will likely be addressed in Country Reports, the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will focus on those avian and mammalian species that are currently significantly contributing to food and agriculture). The Working Group also recommended that FAO continue to develop the Country Reporting module of the Domestic Animal Diversity – Information System (DAD-IS) to support preparation of Country Reports.

7. FAO finalized the *Guidelines for Country Reports* incorporating comments provided by National Coordinators and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group. The *Guidelines*, which include a detailed set of Background Questions and pre-defined tables, provide a framework for evaluation and analysis of the state of a country's animal genetic resources, and the capacity to manage them. The *Guidelines* encourage the establishment of a *National Consultative Committee* on animal genetic resources to identify the primary areas and issues that need to be addressed in the Country Report and to oversee preparation of the Report. Diverse representation on the National Consultative Committee is suggested to ensure opportunities for the full range of stakeholder views to be considered during the preparation of Reports. Those countries responding positively to the Director-General's invitation have indicated that they have or will nominate National Consultative Committees that are responsible for development of the Reports, and have provided contacts to facilitate communication with FAO on matters related to the preparation of the *State of the World Report*.

8. The specific outcomes pursued through the preparation of Country Reports and the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* are:

- A detailed assessment of the state of genetic resources in the farm animal sector covering utilization and conservation, as well as the related techniques being used (state of the art), taking into account the production systems and socio-economic conditions of each country.

- An analysis of the changing and growing demands on the farm animal sector and the implications for future national policies and programmes concerning the sustainable utilization and conservation of farm animal genetic resources.
- A detailed review of the state of national capacities related to farm animal genetic resources and an overall assessment of capacity-building requirements.
- Identification of the priorities for the development of an enhanced national programme of sustainable utilization and conservation of animal genetic resources in the farm animal sector. National priorities may refer to animal species and breeds, to short-term and long-term needs for institution building, research, information system development, policy development, legislation, and regulations.
- Recommendations for international co-operation, priority areas, levels and modes of co-operation that the country would wish to pursue, and proposed country contributions and requirements to ensure sound strategic interventions to achieve the sustainable use and conservation of animal genetic resources.

9. As recommended by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources, and with financial support being provided by the Government of the Netherlands, FAO, in consultation with experts, has enabled the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (<http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>) to provide countries with an information management and communication tool to support the preparation of Country Reports. A Country Report – State of the World Module has been developed to facilitate planning and preparation of Country Reports. Suggestions on report formats, and data and information that would be desirable to be included in the Country Report are provided. Translation of relevant documents, guidelines, and other material into the five official working languages of FAO has been completed, and is available through DAD-IS. FAO encourages countries to use the DAD-IS *State of the World Module*. Countries using the Module will obtain ongoing assistance through direct access to the DAD-IS Moderator during the Report preparation. The use of the Module not only supports preparation of Country Reports, it will also facilitate global distribution of the Reports, and will make it possible to cost-effectively undertake the necessary synthesis at regional and global levels to produce regional reports, and ultimately the global report.

10. FAO has developed training programmes and materials, and through a Global Orientation and Training Workshop held in Rome, in March 2001, has established a group of expert facilitators to support the undertaking of regional workshops. The facilitators used the Guidelines, Background Questions, and the *DAD-IS State of the World Module* as key resources for regional training. A set of definitions has been developed and distributed to promote and achieve universal use of key terms. Between 2001 and 2002, the expert facilitators undertook 14 regional training workshops (Table 1) involving 176 countries and providing training for 320 professionals. The trained professionals and training material provided to them, is a solid foundation for ensuring country reporting in all regions. The total cost of the regional training workshops was US \$785 000, with the majority of the extra-budgetary funding being provided from the Government of the Netherlands, and significant contributions from the Government of Finland and the Nordic Gene Bank. FAO provided substantial funding for the regional training workshops from its Regular Programme.

**Table 1: SOW-AnGR Regional Training Workshops**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Cost: US \$</b>
East Africa	July 2001	FIN	70 000
Latin America	Sep 2001	FNPP	95 000
North Europe	Oct 2001	NordGB-FAO	50 000
SE Europe	Oct 2001	FIN-FAO	60 000
North America	Nov 2001	FAO	15 000
Australasia	Nov 2001	NED-FAO	60 000
West Africa	Nov 2001	FAO	90 000
North Africa	Jan 2002	FNPP	40 000
Near East	Feb 2002	FNPP	55 000
Russia + subregion	Mar 2002	FNPP-FAO	80 000
Southern Africa	Apr 2002	FNPP	35 000
Caribbean	May 2002	FNPP	45 000
Gulf States	June 2002	FNPP	25 000
Pacific Islands	July 2002	FNPP	65 000
		<b>Total</b>	<b>785 000</b>

FIN-Government of Finland; FNPP-FAO-Netherlands Partnership Program; NordGB-Nordic Gene Bank; FAO-Regular Programme; NED-Government of The Netherlands

11. Significant efforts have been undertaken to keep stakeholders informed of progress in the process for the preparation the *State of the World report*. The Second *Ad Hoc* Session of International Stakeholders in Animal Genetic Resources was convened in Rome, in June 2001 to discuss opportunities for stakeholder participation in the preparation of Country Reports, and in the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Options for mobilizing financial and other support to enable all necessary preparatory activities were identified during the workshop. Activities to date have absorbed both Regular Programme and extra-budgetary funding. Both Regular FAO Programme support and extra-budgetary financial resources will be essential to enable the next steps in the State of the World reporting process. The extra-budgetary resource requirements are estimated at US \$3 400 000. This estimate is an elaboration and update of the financial needs estimates in *Appendix C* of the Report on the Second *Ad Hoc* Meeting of International Stakeholders in Animal Genetic Resources, Rome, Italy, 5-6 June 2001. A participatory assessment was made to update this

estimate, by the Secretariat and the experts and specialists attending the meeting, as well as with country delegates, during the regional training workshops in 2001 and 2002. This amount is necessary to, support the analysis of Country Reports; enable the synthesis of Regional Reports; undertake necessary studies to fill gaps and address specific issues; consolidate the Strategic Priority Actions Report; and prepare the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Stakeholders responded positively indicating their support to assist FAO in seeking financial and other resources to undertake all necessary activities. Additional stakeholder sessions will be convened as required to keep stakeholders informed of progress, and to encourage their continued participation in the process.

12. FAO is also undertaking efforts to broadly enhance the understanding of the need for the global assessment of the world's animal genetic resources. The Animal Genetic Resources Information Bulletin (AGRI), an FAO Publication Series, is being used to inform and update a diverse readership of progress in the overall development of the Global Strategy. The Bulletin now serves as a key instrument for informing readers of progress in the process. The *Guidelines for Country Reports* were published in AGRI in all FAO languages. The Domestic Animal Diversity – Information System is also used to enhance understanding of the process. A new element within the System will be added to inform on this process.

13. FAO has also invited international organizations involved with animal genetic resources to participate in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, through the preparation of reports of their organizations on matters related to the state of animal genetic resources and management practices and needs. FAO will also commission special thematic studies involving competent organizations and/or expert groups to address specific issues or areas that would significantly contribute to the better understanding of the state of animal genetic resources.

14. Given that Country Reports and the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will assist countries to meet their obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, FAO has ensured that Parties to this Convention have been kept informed of the preparatory process. Efforts undertaken to inform Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are presented in Section III below. Section IV describes the core activities and extra-budgetary financial requirements that are required to complete the preparation of the *Report*.

### **III. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

15. At its fifth conference, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity endorsed the multi-year work programme on agricultural biological diversity. The Agricultural Biological Diversity Programme of Work specifically notes the need to build on the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources. As a key element of the Global Strategy, the first *Report of the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will contribute to the Agricultural Biological Diversity Programme of Work. Indeed, assessments of the status and trends of animal genetic resources necessary to prepare Country Reports will assist countries to meet their conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit-sharing obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity. This was illustrated in a series of case studies provided to FAO to assist in identifying the requirements for establishing sustainable livestock development programmes. A brief description of the case studies and lessons learnt from them was summarized by FAO and presented as an information document to the Seventh meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/12).

16. To keep Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity informed of progress in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, FAO prepared information documents for the seventh meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/INF/13), and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/31). At their sixth conference, Parties welcomed the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, encouraged Parties to participate by preparing Country Reports, and invited Parties, other Governments, the Convention's financial mechanism and other funding organizations, to provide adequate and timely support to enable countries to participate in the State of the World process, and to implement the follow-up actions that will contribute to conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit-sharing of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

#### **IV. NEXT STEPS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

17. Individuals trained at regional workshops are responsible for providing in-country training in the preparation of Country Reports, and are providing ongoing assistance in the development of Country Reports as resources allow. Many countries were able to mobilize financial and human resources to support preparation of their Country Reports and indicated that they would submit official Country Reports in 2002.

18. FAO dedicated, in November 2001, US \$700 000 of its Regular Programme to provide technical and financial assistance to approximately 50 developing countries covering all regions. This assistance is provided through a contractual arrangement with the World Association of Animal Production (WAAP). The Secretariat, in close cooperation with national experts and national coordinators for AnGR, designed primary eligibility criteria for financial and technical support to countries. This limited support was made available, to assist in the in-country reporting process. It was limited to countries that had accepted FAO's invitation to participate in the development of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and which had established their National Coordinating Committee. Allocations took into account country size, the relative importance at both local and regional levels of their livestock resources and degree of endangerment, existing facilities, and the availability of national livestock services infrastructure for data collection, data processing and networking. Another US \$300 000 support for Country Reports is being provided by the FAO-Netherlands Partnership Program (FNPP) to assist about 20 countries in complying with commitments on agricultural biological diversity and genetic resources, including in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity. FAO is seeking donor support for an additional US\$ 700 000, which is required in 2002 in order to provide timely assistance to several other developing countries in the preparation of their Country Report.

19. With Country Report regional training completed in 2002, and provided the necessary extra-budgetary resources are secured to assist developing countries undertake preparation of their Country Reports, it is anticipated that the majority of Reports will be completed and submitted to FAO by August 2003. This schedule is approximately one year later than originally anticipated and endorsed by the Intergovernmental Technical Working on Animal Genetic Resources. The delay is primarily the result of the longer time period required to hold the large number of regional training workshops than anticipated, and the relatively limited resources available for supporting country report preparation.

20. Following Country Report preparation, convening of regional meetings is the key next step in the State of the World process. With a sufficient number of Country Reports completed by August 2003, regional meetings will be convened. The input of each country to the regional meetings will be its Country Report, the output expected from these meetings will be the Regional Reports including the description of the regional situation and trends and the identification of regional needs, emergencies and priorities. The ultimate objective of these regional meetings will be to reach agreement on priorities for action at the regional level, in accordance with major production system characteristics. Identified regional priorities will enable preparation of the Report on Strategic Priorities for Action, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources in its Second Session, Rome, Italy, 4-6 September, 2000. This report will be presented to the Commission at its Tenth Session. This regional approach will not only make it possible to provide an advance report on the state of animal genetic resources to the Commission, it will also determine priorities for countries and donors for improved sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources. The regional process will also enable establishment of conservation priorities and identification of appropriate measures for conservation taking into account local needs and conditions.

21. It is proposed that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture meet in 2003 to review overall progress in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* focusing on identifying the key elements of the Strategic Priority Actions Report, and options for a Follow-Up Mechanism. The Working Group will also provide recommendations to the Tenth Session of the Commission on the content and format of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. Approximately US \$900 000 from extra-budgetary resources will be required to prepare for, and convene the necessary regional meetings, and enable preparation of Regional Reports and thematic studies. An additional US \$500 000 will be necessary to support preparation of the Strategic Priority Actions Report. Annex 1 describes the core activities and indicates necessary financial resources to complete all tasks.

22. The Strategic Priority Action Report is intended to identify both capacity-building requirements, and specific needs for urgent action. The Report will provide a basis for the Commission to consider an appropriate implementation or follow-up mechanism to ensure effective and timely response to the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* when it is completed in 2006. As part of the Strategic Priority Actions Report preparatory process, a stakeholders meeting will be convened to assist in identifying priority actions, including capacity-building needs, and to encourage stakeholders to assist in responding to identified priorities.

23. Following the review of the Strategic Priority Actions Report by the Commission and with direction from the Commission on the content and format of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, preparation of the *Report* will be undertaken from 2004 to 2006. This will require further synthesis of Country Reports and Regional Priority Reports, and review of reports from organizations and expert groups. Annex 2 illustrates the overall process.

## V. GUIDANCE REQUESTED FROM THE COMMISSION

24. In considering this report on the process to date regarding animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, the Commission may wish to draw on the experience gained in the

processes for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, in particular in relation to the preparation of the first report on the *State of the World's Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and *Global Plan of Action*. It is recalled that this was done through a similar country-driven process, which included—as described in the present document—regional meetings, which culminated in the Fourth International Technical Conference on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the Commission may consider the possibility of completing the process for animal genetic resources with the convening of the First Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

25. The Commission may wish to:

- (i) Endorse the process for undertaking the preparation of the country-driven first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* by 2006, including preparation of Country Reports, Reports from International Organizations and Expert Groups, Regional Priority Action Reports, and synthesis of these Reports to form the Strategic Priority Actions Report for presentation to the Commission at its Tenth Session;
- (ii) Agree that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources meet in 2003 to review progress in the preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*; provide advice on the Strategic Priority Actions Report; and provide recommendations on the final content and format of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resource*, prior to the Tenth Session of the Commission.
- (iii) Agree that the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources meet in 2005 to review the first draft of the *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and provide recommendations on a possible follow-up mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* when it is completed and considered by the Commission in 2006; and
- (iv) Recognize the need for extra-budgetary resources to ensure successful preparation of the first *Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and follow-up actions, and encourage further donor support to mobilize the necessary funds to complement and synergize with the Regular Programme support by FAO.

**Annex 1: Core Activities and Indicative Budget**

Activities	Year	Cost US \$		Purpose and Outputs
		Extra-budgetary resources	Regular Programme	
Direct additional assistance to countries to prepare Country Reports National Workshops Office equipment In-county consultations	2002	1 000 000		To provide assistance to countries in their preparation of Country Reports  Country Reports
Regional meetings to identify regional priorities Preparation of documentation for 14 regional meetings Participation of developing countries and organizational expenses	2003	900 000		Review of Country Reports Discussion on regional issues  Regional Priority Reports
Development of Thematic studies Expert meetings and Consultants	2003			Thematic reports
Initial synthesis of Regional Priority Reports Expert meetings and Authors' Contracts/editors	2003	500 000		Strategic Priority Actions Report
Synthesis of Country Reports, Regional Priority Reports, International Organizations Reports and Commissioned Technical Reports Expert meetings and Authors Contracts/editors	2004-2005	1 300 000		First Report of the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources

Activities	Year	Cost US \$		Purpose and Outputs
		Extra-budgetary resources	Regular Programme	
Staff costs, travel, consultancies, meetings of experts, expert reports, editing and printing, communications, information system development	2002-2005		3 450 000	
<b>Subtotals</b>		<b>3 700 000</b>	<b>3 450 000</b>	
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>		<b>7 150 000</b>		

**Annex 2: State of the World – Animal Genetic Resources Process  
Timeline and Core Activities**

