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FUNDING STRATEGY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Twelfth Regular Session, adopted the *Funding Strategy for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*¹ (Funding Strategy) and requested FAO to implement it.²

2. The Funding Strategy covers all known and potential sources of financial resources that support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (Global Plan of Action). The Funding Strategy established, as one of its financial resources, an FAO Trust Account for voluntary contributions to support national and regional projects for implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

3. The present document reports on FAO's activities in the implementation of the FAO Trust Account since the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session. It reports on the status of implementation of the first project cycle under the FAO Trust Account, including on achievements made and challenges encountered. More extensive information is available in the document, *Detailed FAO progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*.³

II. BACKGROUND

4. At its Thirteenth Regular Session, the Commission requested FAO to launch the first call for proposals for the use of funds received through the FAO Trust Account, and provided detailed guidance on the process.⁴ It also requested FAO to use experience gained in the first round of projects to prepare draft monitoring procedures,⁵ as envisaged in the Funding Strategy,⁶ which the Commission adopted at its Fourteenth Regular Session.⁷ At its Fourteenth Regular Session, the Commission was also informed about the 13 projects selected by its Bureau to receive support under the FAO Trust Account and that financial negotiations with the project coordinators were underway.⁸

5. At the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission, the Secretariat presented an update on the status of the FAO Trust Account projects.⁹ The implementation of all projects was on-going, with progress varying among projects. The selection and operation of projects under the Funding Strategy were reported to be complex and time consuming. The Commission reviewed the administrative costs and agreed to consider, at its Sixteenth Regular Session, an increase of the maximum budget per national project for future calls for proposals.¹⁰

6. The Secretariat reported on the operation and effectiveness of the Funding Strategy to the Ninth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹¹ and to the Sixteenth Regular Session of the Commission,¹² with particular emphasis on the projects under the FAO Trust Account. The report included a summary of the status of the projects and the outputs achieved, a description of the challenges encountered and a list of options to improve the operation and effectiveness of the FAO Trust Account.

7. Among the main challenges faced was that the selection, administration and monitoring of each project under the FAO Trust Account was complex and time-consuming. For example, the development of the contracts (FAO Letters of Agreement - LoA) with beneficiaries required between 2 and 18 months of negotiation, depending on the project. This negotiation delayed the

¹ CGRFA-12/09/Report, Appendix C.

² CGRFA-12/09/Report, paragraph 43.

³ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-10/18/Inf.2.

⁴ CGRFA-13/11/Report 12, paragraph 85-88.

⁵ CGRFA-13/11/Report 12, paragraph 88.

⁶ Annex I Section C, II Project Cycle, paragraph 8c.

⁷ CGRFA-14/13/Report, paragraph 65.

⁸ CGRFA-14/13/14, paragraph 13.

⁹ CGRFA-15/15/11, paragraphs 43-51.

¹⁰ CGRFA-15/15/Report, paragraph 42.

¹¹ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-9/16/3.

¹² CGRFA-16/17/13, section VII.

implementation of several projects. In many cases, revisions of work plans were necessary and implementation and reporting were consequently deferred. Substantial in-kind inputs by FAO technical officers for the development and monitoring of projects were required, but no financial means for technical backstopping of projects were available. The quality of projects and reporting was highly heterogeneous and some projects were not fully aligned with existing livestock policies or the National Strategy and Action Plan for management of animal genetic resources (NSAP) of the countries, where those existed.

8. At its Sixteenth Regular Session,¹³ the Commission considered the challenges encountered and agreed, with regard to future calls for proposals under the Funding Strategy and projects to be funded, to the following modalities:¹⁴

- Increase for any future calls for proposals under the Funding Strategy the maximum budget per national project to US\$100 000 and to US\$300 000 for regional and other multi-country projects, ensuring that the average contributions to individual countries do not exceed US\$100 000;
- Give priority to projects under the FAO Trust Account aimed at the development of NSAPs for countries lacking such plans or to projects that implement NSAPs or other established policy frameworks for the management of animal genetic resources, as well as projects involving non-governmental organizations or any other stakeholders active in the management of animal genetic resources;
- Give priority to regional projects and projects that collaborate with different stakeholders, including non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sector;
- Require one focal point per regional project, where feasible, to be administratively responsible for the project; and
- Focus the next call for proposals under the Funding Strategy on new and emerging issues and trends, as identified by the Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources and stakeholder consultations.

III. STATUS OF THE FAO TRUST ACCOUNT

Status of projects

9. In the first call for proposals under the Funding Strategy, the Bureau of the Commission approved 13 project proposals involving 30 countries. Seventeen LoA were signed, with seven of the LoA implemented by governmental institutions or ministries, five by national research organizations or universities and five by non-governmental organizations. Prior to the Commission's Sixteenth Regular Session, eight projects had already been operationally closed and the remaining five projects had completed implementation. The Commission, at its Sixteenth Regular Session,¹⁵ requested FAO to compile reports and achievements of projects under the FAO Trust Account and publicize these on the Web site of FAO. All reports have been made available on the Web pages of the Animal Production and Genetics Unit.¹⁶ An overview of project titles and objectives, number of species and breeds addressed, and achievement of outputs is provided in Table 1 for regional projects and Table 2 for national projects.

10. Every region, with the exception of North America, benefitted from one or more projects approved under the first project cycle of the FAO Trust Account. The projects facilitated activities improving the management of animal genetic resources for more than 50 different national breed populations belonging to seven species.

¹³ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 49.

¹⁴ CGRFA-16/17/13, paragraph 49 xvi, xviii–xxi.

¹⁵ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 49.

¹⁶ http://www.fao.org/AG/AGAInfo/programmes/en/genetics/Funding_strategy.html

Table 1: Overview of project objectives and achievement of outputs of regional projects funded by FAO's Trust Account

Project name	Countries involved	Species Number of breeds and national breed populations	Main objectives	Specific comments
BushaLive	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Cattle 1 breed 7 national breed populations	-Strengthen across country collaboration -Breed characterization -Basic recording scheme	Planned outputs mostly achieved
Preservation of the Béni Guil sheep breed by the exchange of experiences between countries	Algeria and Morocco	Sheep 1 2	-Improving selection scheme -Training and awareness raising	Planned outputs mostly achieved
Enhancement of farmers communities through goats utilization and genetic improvement	Argentina, Brazil and Costa Rica	Goat 11 11	-Breed characterization -Establish participatory breeding schemes -Cryoconservation	Brazil withdrew due to difficulties related to funds transfers Results achieved in other countries
Capacity development supporting the implementation of breeding strategies for llamas	Bolivia and Peru	Llama 2 2	-Training and capacity development	Planned outputs achieved
Conservation of indigenous pig and chicken breeds	Cook Islands, Fiji and Niue	Chicken, pig ^a 3 3	-Establishment of collection, breeding and conservation centers	Planned outputs achieved
Promotion of indigenous chicken for improved livelihood and income generation	Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda	Chicken 3 3	-Breed characterization -Establishment of breeding schemes	Planned outputs achieved
Assessment of the impact of transhumance on the sustainable management of animal genetic resources	Gambia, Guinea, Mali and Senegal	Cattle, goat, sheep 3 12	-Assessment of the transhumant system	Planned outputs achieved

^a One breed of pigs in Fiji and one breed of chickens in each of Niue and the Cook Islands.^b One breed of each species in each country.

11. Awareness raising was a key component of all projects and most of the projects included capacity-building activities. Livestock keepers were the main beneficiaries of the projects. More than 2 150 people attended awareness-raising, capacity-building and dissemination events with widely diverse participants, including government personnel, livestock keepers, researchers and technical experts. These stakeholders benefited through increased networking with other livestock keepers and technical experts. Livestock keepers represented both genders and a wide range of age groups. Other stakeholders who benefitted included members of producer and marketing associations, university students and staff of implementing agencies. At least 20 policies of various types were prepared in the course of the first project cycle, including breeding strategies, conservation plans and biocultural community protocols. Breed data sheets for the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) were compiled for those projects that included a component on breed characterization.

Table 2: Overview of project objectives, and achievement of outputs of national projects funded by FAO's Trust Account

Project name	Country	Species breeds (n)	Main objectives	Specific comments
In situ conservation strategy for goats and cattle	Chile	Cattle, goat 2	-Development of conservation strategies -Breed characterization	Planned outputs achieved
Documenting and supporting community-based conservation of four local breeds	India	Cattle, sheep, camel, goat 4 ^a	-Development of Biocultural Protocols -Capacity development	Planned outputs achieved
Conservation of native cattle breeds, for their present and future use	Mozambique	Cattle 3	-Breed characterization	Planned outputs achieved, after adjustments to work plan due to social conflict in one target area
Conserving Muturu cattle in the South Rain Forest Zone	Nigeria	Cattle 1	-Establishment of a conservation strategy	Planned outputs not achieved – Beneficiaries ceased communication
Phenotypic and molecular characterization of local chicken	Togo	Chicken 1	-Breed characterization	Planned outputs achieved
Conservation and characterization of Criollo sheep	Uruguay	Sheep 1	-Breed characterization -Development of a conservation plan -Creation of a database -Training and capacity development	Planned outputs achieved

Financial status

12. The first call for proposals was supported by voluntary contributions totalling US\$1 050 402 from Switzerland (US\$406 000), Norway (US\$100 000) and Germany (€480 000). The overall project¹⁷ of the first call for proposals of the FAO Trust Account was operationally closed in December 2016 and financially closed in December 2017, with a total expenditure of US\$943 723. Unspent funds have been returned or allocated to other FAO work on animal genetic resources, according to agreements with the donor countries.

13. At its Sixteenth Regular Session, the Commission invited donors to contribute to the Funding Strategy and to allocate sufficient funding for monitoring, backstopping and technical assistance of projects.¹⁸ To date, no funds are available for a second call for proposals under the FAO Trust Account.

Sustainability of projects

14. Sustainability was one of the selection criteria¹⁹ for the projects under the FAO Trust Account. Reviewers of proposals were requested to ask themselves “How sustainable are the activities and beneficial changes proposed by the project?” when assessing a given project for its suitability for funding. More than two years have passed since the project activities have been completed, and judgment about sustainability can now be made. During August 2018, each of the project Focal Points was contacted via email and asked to provide an update on activities undertaken since the closure of the project. Table 3 summarizes the 11 responses that were received, representing 10 of the 13 projects.

15. In all of the cases shown, the activities started by the projects either continue or have evolved into new activities. The extent of the activities range from continued contact between the project implementer and beneficiary livestock keepers (e.g. Bolivia and Peru) to full government buy-in to ensure sustainability (e.g. Ethiopia).

Conclusions

16. The first call of proposals under the FAO Trust Account of the Funding Strategy was generally a success, with some qualifiers. Among the positive results, 12 of 13 projects were successfully completed. Approximately 90 percent of funds received were disbursed to countries. For most of the projects, the activities initiated with the funds from the FAO Trust Account are either being continued today through local sources of financial support or served as the catalyst for new, related activities involving the original breeds and beneficiaries. On the other side, the final quality of projects was highly variable and the selection, administration and monitoring of each project under the FAO Trust Account was complex and time-consuming. However, these shortcomings have been reported to the Commission²⁰ and solutions have been adopted²¹ for future calls for proposals under the FAO Trust Account. There are currently no funds available in the FAO Trust Account for a second call for proposals, but the Commission has invited donors to contribute to the Funding Strategy.²²

¹⁷ GCP/GLO/287/MUL.

¹⁸ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 49.

¹⁹ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1674e/i1674e00.pdf>, Annex I.

²⁰ CGRFA-16/17/13.

²¹ CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 49; CGRFA-16/17/13, paragraph 49 xvi, xviii–xxi.

²² CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 49.

Table 3: Lasting impacts and activities since the closure of the FAO Trust Account projects.

Countries	Current status, lasting impacts and activities undertaken
Algeria Morocco	The number of breeders registered in the Moroccan breeding programme has increased 20% since the project ended. A regional artificial insemination centre is being created in eastern Morocco by the beneficiaries, government and donors.
Argentina Costa Rica	Training and consolidation of young professional teams is leading to solid follow-up activities for many farms and to strengthened actions on characterization and conservation by use of the local or locally-adapted goat breeds.
Bolivia Peru	In both countries, the local partners are still in regular contact with farmers and provide support for keeping the breeding programs running.
BushaLive ^a	Breeding strategies for individual Busha cattle strains were adapted.
Chile	The government is supporting the creation of a brand for products from the Overo Negro cattle. Several scientific papers were published based on project activities.
Cook Islands Fiji & Niue	The project included an exit strategy. The <i>in vivo</i> conservation facilities established by the project are still in operation.
Ethiopia	The government supports the conservation and sustainable use programmes initiated by the project.
India	The Kharai Camel has been registered as a distinct camel breed of India. The national government has established a fund to support conservation of this breed. The State Government of Gujarat is financially supporting the creation of a dairy for camel milk. The Indian government is supporting a follow-up project to establish a nucleus herd for the Pulikulam cattle breed through a public-private partnership.
Kenya	The government is implementing the breeding programmes developed by the project and replicating the activities for other breeds and species.
Mozambique	Activities continue with government support. Utilization of semen from exotic breeds has decreased, due to awareness raised by the project.
Uruguay	The National Park Service is maintaining the population of Creole sheep targeted by the project. The project beneficiaries are partners in a research project sponsored by the European Union that will undertake genomic characterization.

^aAlbania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.