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**THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

FINAL VERSION

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Contents

Acknowledgements	i
Preface.....	iv
The reporting and preparatory process.....	1

Part 1

The state of agricultural biodiversity in the livestock sector

Introduction

SECTION A: ORIGIN AND HISTORY OF LIVESTOCK DIVERSITY

1 Introduction.....	10
2 The livestock domestication process.....	11
3 Ancestors and geographic origins of our livestock	14
4 Dispersal of domesticated animals.....	18
5 Transformations in livestock following domestication.....	21
6 Conclusions.....	22
7 References.....	23

SECTION B: STATUS OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

1 Introduction.....	27
2 State of reporting.....	28
3 Species diversity	30
3.1 The big five.....	31
3.2 Other widespread species.....	34
3.3 Species with a narrower distribution.....	34
4 Breed diversity	35
4.1 Overview.....	35
4.2 Local breeds.....	39
4.3 Regional transboundary breeds.....	40
4.4 International transboundary breeds.....	41
5 Risk status of animal genetic resources	41
6 Trends in breed status	47
6.1 Changes in the number of breeds in the different breed groups	47
6.2 Trends in genetic erosion.....	48
7 Conclusions.....	51

SECTION C: FLOWS OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

1 Introduction.....	53
2 Driving forces and historical phases in gene flows.....	53
2.1 Phase 1: prehistory to the eighteenth century	54
2.2 Phase 2: nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries	55
2.3 Phase 3: mid-twentieth century to the present	55
3 The big five.....	57
3.1 Cattle.....	59
3.2 Sheep.....	64
3.3 Goats.....	68

3.4 Pigs	70
3.5 Chickens	72
3.6 Other species.....	73
4 Impacts of gene flows on diversity	74
4.1 Diversity-enhancing gene flow	74
4.2 Diversity-reducing gene flow	75
4.3 Diversity-neutral gene flow	75
4.4 The future.....	75
5 References.....	76

SECTION D: USES AND VALUES OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

1 Introduction.....	79
2 Contribution to national economies	79
3 Patterns of livestock distribution.....	82
4 Food production	85
5 Production of fibre, skins, hides and pelts	87
6 Agricultural inputs, transport and fuel	88
7 Other uses and values.....	91
7.1 Savings and risk management.....	91
7.2 Sociocultural roles	92
7.3 Environmental services.....	95
8 Roles of livestock for the poor.....	97
9 Conclusions.....	99
10 References.....	99

SECTION E: ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES AND RESISTANCE TO DISEASE

1 Introduction.....	101
2 Disease resistant or tolerant breeds	102
2.1 Trypanosomiasis	104
2.2 Ticks and tick-borne diseases	104
2.3 Internal parasites	105
2.4 Foot rot.....	106
2.5 Bovine leukosis.....	107
2.6 Diseases of poultry.....	107
3 Opportunities for within-breed selection for disease resistance.....	108
4 Conclusions.....	110
5 References.....	110

SECTION F: THREATS TO LIVESTOCK GENETIC DIVERSITY

1 Introduction.....	113
2 Livestock sector trends: economic, social and policy factors	114
3 Disasters and emergencies	119
4 Epidemics and disease control measures	124
5 Conclusions.....	128
6 References.....	129

Part 2

Livestock Sector Trends

Introduction

SECTION A: DRIVERS OF CHANGE IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR

1	Changes in demand	137
1.1	Purchasing power	139
1.2	Urbanization	139
1.3	Consumer taste and preference	139
2	Trade and retailing	140
2.1	Flows of livestock and their products	140
2.2	The rise of large retailers and vertical coordination along the food chain	142
3	Changing natural environment	143
4	Advances in technology	144
5	Policy environment	145

SECTION B: LIVESTOCK SECTOR'S RESPONSE

1	Landless industrialized production systems	150
1.1	Overview and trends	150
1.2	Environmental issues	154
2	Small-scale landless systems	157
2.1	Overview	157
2.2	Environmental issues	158
2.3	Trends	158
3	Grassland-based systems	159
3.1	Overview	159
3.2	Environmental issues	160
3.3	Trends	161
4	Mixed farming systems	164
4.1	Overview	164
4.2	Environmental issues	165
4.3	Trends	166
5	Issues in mixed irrigated systems	167

SECTION C: IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHANGES IN THE LIVESTOCK SECTOR FOR GENETIC DIVERSITY

References	171
------------------	-----

Part 3

The state of capacities in animal genetic resource management

Introduction

SECTION A: INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS

1	Introduction.....	176
2	Analytical framework	177
2.1	Stakeholders' involvement and background at country level	177
2.2	Assessment of institutional capacities at country level.....	177
2.3	Organizations and networks with a potential role in regional and international collaboration	179
3	Stakeholders, institutions, capacities and structures	179
3.1	Stakeholder involvement in the State of the World process at country level	179
3.2	Assessment of institutional capacities at country and regional level.....	180
3.3	Organizations and networks with a potential role in subregional, regional and international collaboration	185
4	Conclusions.....	189
5	References.....	191
6	Annex.....	192

SECTION B: STRUCTURED BREEDING PROGRAMMES

1	Introduction.....	202
2	Species priorities and breeding objectives	203
2.1	Cattle.....	203
2.2	Buffaloes.....	205
2.3	Sheep and goats	205
2.4	Pigs	205
2.5	Poultry.....	205
2.6	Other species.....	206
3	Organizational structures	206
4	Tools and implementation.....	208
5	Overview of breeding programmes by region	210
5.1	Africa	211
5.2	Asia	212
5.3	Europe and the Caucasus	214
5.4	Latin America and the Caribbean	215
5.5	Near and Middle East	217
5.6	North America and Southwest Pacific	217
6	Conclusions and future priorities	218
7	References.....	220
8	Annex.....	220

SECTION C: CONSERVATION PROGRAMMES

1	Introduction.....	225
2	Global status.....	226
3	Stakeholders.....	227
3.1	National governments	227
3.2	Universities and research institutes.....	227
3.3	Civil society organizations and breeders' associations.....	228
3.4	Farmers	228
3.5	Part-time or hobby farmers	228
3.6	Breeding companies.....	228

4	Conservation at species level – status and opportunities	229
4.1	Cattle.....	229
4.2	Sheep.....	230
4.3	Goats	230
4.4	Pigs	230
4.5	Chickens	230
4.6	Horses	231
5	<i>In vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> conservation programmes at regional level	231
5.1	Africa.....	231
5.2	Asia.....	234
5.3	Europe and the Caucasus	235
5.4	Latin America and the Caribbean	237
5.5	Near and Middle East	238
5.6	North America	238
5.7	Southwest Pacific.....	239
6	Opportunities for improving conservation programmes	240
7	Conclusions and priorities.....	241
8	References.....	242

SECTION D: REPRODUCTIVE AND MOLECULAR BIOTECHNOLOGY

1	Introduction.....	243
2	Global overview.....	243
2.1	Africa.....	244
2.2	Asia.....	245
2.3	Europe and the Caucasus	246
2.4	Latin America and the Caribbean	248
2.5	Near and Middle East	249
2.6	North America	249
2.7	Southwest Pacific.....	249
3	Conclusions.....	250
4	References.....	250

SECTION E: LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

1	International legal framework – major instruments	251
1.1	Introduction.....	251
1.2	Legal framework for the management of biodiversity.....	251
1.3	Access and benefit sharing	253
1.4	Legal framework for international trade	254
1.5	Intellectual property rights.....	255
1.6	Legal framework for biosecurity	256
1.7	Conclusions.....	258
1.8	References.....	259
2	Emerging legal issues	259
2.1	Patenting	259
2.2	Livestock Keepers’ Rights.....	264
3	Regulatory frameworks at regional level	265
3.1	Introduction.....	265
3.2	European Union legislation: an example of a comprehensive regional legal framework	266
3.3	Conclusions.....	274
3.4	Legislation cited.....	274
4	National legislation and policy	280
4.1	Introduction.....	280
4.2	Methods	280
4.3	Implementation of AnGR legislation and programmes	281

4.4 Country Reports analysis.....	281
4.5 Conclusions.....	303
4.6 References.....	304

Part 4

State of the art in the management of animal genetic resources

Introduction

SECTION A: BASIC CONCEPTS

1 Animal genetic resources and breeds.....	306
2 Management of animal genetic resources.....	307
3 Risk status classification.....	309
4 References.....	311

SECTION B: METHODS FOR CHARACTERIZATION

1 Introduction.....	313
2 Characterization – as the basis for decision-making.....	313
3 Tools for characterization.....	316
3.1 Surveying.....	316
3.2 Monitoring.....	319
3.3 Molecular genetic characterization.....	320
3.4 Information systems.....	320
4 Conclusions.....	323
5 References.....	323

SECTION C: MOLECULAR MARKERS – A TOOL FOR EXPLORING GENETIC DIVERSITY

1 Introduction.....	325
2 The roles of molecular technologies in characterization.....	326
3 Overview of molecular techniques.....	327
3.1 Techniques using DNA markers to assess genetic diversity.....	329
3.2 Using markers to estimate effective population size.....	331
3.3 Molecular tools for targeting functional variation.....	331
4 The role of bioinformatics.....	336
5 Conclusions.....	336
6 References.....	339

SECTION D: GENETIC IMPROVEMENT METHODS TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION

1 Introduction.....	344
2 The context for genetic improvement.....	344
2.1 Changing demand.....	344
2.2 Diverse production environments.....	344
2.3 Increasing recognition of the importance of genetic diversity.....	345
2.4 Scientific and technological advances.....	345
2.5 Economic considerations.....	350

3	Elements of a breeding programme	350
3.1	Breeding goals	352
3.2	Selection criteria	353
3.3	Design of the breeding schemes	354
3.4	Data recording and management	355
3.5	Genetic evaluation	356
3.6	Selection and mating	357
3.7	Progress monitoring	357
3.8	Dissemination of genetic progress	357
4	Breeding programmes in high-input systems	358
4.1	Dairy and beef cattle breeding	358
4.2	Sheep and goat breeding	363
4.3	Pig and poultry breeding	364
5	Breeding programmes in low-input systems	367
5.1	Description of low-input systems	367
5.2	Breeding strategies	369
6	Breeding in the context of conservation	380
6.1	Methods for monitoring small populations	380
6.2	Conservation through breeding	381
7	Conclusions	382
8	References	383

SECTION E: METHODS FOR ECONOMIC VALUATION

1	Introduction	388
2	Development of methodologies for economic analysis	389
3	Application of economic methodologies in AnGR management	392
3.1	Value of livestock genetic resources to farmers	392
3.2	Costs and benefits of conservation	393
3.3	Targeting of farmers for participation in <i>in situ</i> breed conservation programmes	394
3.4	Priority setting in livestock conservation programmes	395
3.5	Priority setting in livestock-breeding strategies	396
3.6	General policy analysis development	396
4	Implications for policies and future research	397
5	References	398

SECTION F: METHODS FOR CONSERVATION

1	Introduction	400
2	Arguments for conservation	401
2.1	Arguments related to the past	401
2.2	Safeguarding for future needs	402
2.3	Arguments related to the present situation	403
3	The unit of conservation	405
4	Conservation of plant versus animal genetic resources	405
5	Information for conservation decisions	408
6	<i>In vivo</i> conservation	410
6.1	Background	410
6.2	Genetic management of populations	411
6.3	Self-sustaining strategies for local breeds	412
6.4	<i>In situ</i> versus <i>ex situ</i> approaches to <i>in vivo</i> conservation	415
7	Current status and future prospects for cryoconservation	418
7.1	Gametes	418
7.2	Embryos	419
7.3	Cryoconservation of somatic cells and somatic cell cloning	420
7.4	Choice of genetic material	421
7.5	Security in genebanks	422

8	Resource allocation strategies in conservation	422
8.1	Methods for setting priorities.....	422
8.2	Optimization strategies for planning conservation programmes	423
9	Conclusions.....	426
10	References.....	429

SECTION G: RESEARCH PRIORITIES

1	Information for effective utilization and conservation.....	432
2	Information systems.....	432
3	Molecular methods.....	432
4	Characterization	433
5	Genetic improvement methods	433
6	Conservation methods.....	434
7	Decision-support tools for conservation	434
8	Economic analysis	435
9	Access and benefit sharing.....	435

Part 5

Needs and challenges in animal genetic resources management

Introduction

1	Knowledge of animal genetic diversity: concepts, methods and technologies	438
2	Capacity in animal genetic resources management	441
2.1	Capacity in characterization, sustainable use and conservation of AnGR.....	441
2.2	Capacity in institutions and policy-making	443
3	Major challenges for livestock development and animal genetic resources management....	445
4	Accepting global responsibility	447

	Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	449
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CD-ROM

1. Country Reports
2. Reports from International Organizations
3. Subregional Synthesis Reports
4. Thematic Studies
5. List of breeds documented in the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources
6. List of breeds at risk
7. List of authors, reviewers and their affiliations

BOXES

1 The domestication process.....	12
2 Molecular characterization – a tool to understand livestock origin and diversity	14
3 The history of African pastoralism	19
4 What is new compared to the World Watch List for Domestic Animal Diversity?	27
5 Glossary: populations – breeds –regions	28
6 Glossary: risk status classification.....	42
7 Gene flows resulting from colonization	55
8 Nelore cattle.....	63
9 Continuous repackaging of genes –Dorper sheep.....	67
10 Hybrid pigs	71
11 The chicken breeding industry.....	73
12 Linguistic links between cattle and wealth	92
13 The history of Hungarian Grey cattle – changing uses over time.....	97
14 Genetic resistance to African swine fever	109
15 Mongolian reindeer under threat	116
16 Policy distortions influencing the erosion of pig genetic resources in Viet Nam.....	117
17 Which dairy breeds for tropical smallholders?.....	119
18 War and rehabilitation in Bosnia and Herzegovina	124
19 The concept of productivity.....	136
20 Sustainable utilization of the Iberian pig in Spain – a success story	140
21 Overcoming constraints to the development of small-scale market oriented dairying.....	142
22 Facts and trends in the emerging world food economy	147
23 Suggestions for strengthening national structures	190
24 Research and breed development in Africa	211
25 Sheep breeding in Tunisia	212
26 Buffalo breeding in India.....	213
27 Goat breeding in the Republic of Korea	213
28 Duck breeding in Viet Nam.....	214
29 Pig breeding in Hungary	215
30 Horse breeding – tradition and new requirements	215
31 Beef cattle breeding in Brazil	216
32 Breeding llamas in Argentina	217
33 Influence of market forces on livestock breeding in the United States of America	218
34 Sheep breeding in Australia.....	218
35 Mali – role of the government	227
36 Ethiopia – <i>in situ</i> conservation	232
37 Morocco’s Plan Moutonnier – designated breeding areas to sustain local sheep breeds	233
38 Conservation strategies in China	235
39 Denmark – opportunities for <i>in vivo</i> conservation.....	236
40 Brazil – implementation of a genebank	238
41 United States of America – priorities in conservation programmes	239
42 Australia – involvement of diverse stakeholders.....	240
43 Impact of international zoosanitary regulations on animal genetic resources management – the example of FMD.....	257
44 The first patented animal	261
45 The African Union Model Law	266
46 Malawi’s Environmental Management Act.....	282
47 Turkey’s Law on Pastures No. 4342 (1998).....	284
48 Slovenia’s Livestock Breeding Act (2002).....	284
49 Mozambique’s Livestock Development Policy and Strategies	285
50 Slovenia’s regulation on Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources.....	287
51 Uganda’s National Animal Genetic Resources Programme.....	288
52 Ukraine’s Law on Animal Breeding.....	289

BOXES - continued

53 Turkey's Regulation on Protection of Animal Genetic Resources (2002)	289
54 Lesotho's Importation and Exportation of Livestock and Livestock Products Proclamation	291
55 Malaysia's Animals Ordinance.....	291
56 Hungary's Decree No 39	292
57 Botswana's Stock Diseases (Semen) Regulations	292
58 Barbados's incentive programme	293
59 Uganda's Animal Breeding Act (2001).....	294
60 Guatemala – decentralization of the registration of pure-bred animals	295
61 Mongolia's White Revolution Programme.....	297
62 The Philippine's White Revolution	297
63 Russian Federation – Veterinary and Sanitary Requirements No. 13-8-01/1-8 (1999).....	299
64 India – rules for transportation	300
65 West Africa – pastoralist crossing borders	300
66 The Islamic Republic of Iran's Act of National Veterinary System (1971)	302
67 Definition of breed adopted by FAO	306
68 Production environment descriptors for animal genetic resources	316
69 Information systems at global level.....	322
70 DNA, RNA and protein	325
71 The new “-omics” scientific disciplines.....	326
72 Recent developments in molecular biology.....	326
73 Extraction and multiplication of DNA and RNA	327
74 Commonly used DNA markers	328
75 Sampling genetic material	328
76 QTL mapping	332
77 The population genomics approach.....	333
78 Databases of biological molecules.....	336
79 Glossary: molecular markers	338
80 The changing body size of beef cattle in United States of America.....	354
81 Calving problems in Belgian White Blue cattle	358
82 Cross-breeding to address inbreeding-related problems in Holstein cattle.....	359
83 Norwegian Red Cattle - selection for functional traits	361
84 Community-based sheep management in the Peruvian Andes	368
85 Genetic improvement of an indigenous livestock breed – Boran cattle in Kenya.....	369
86 A llama breeding programme in Ayopaya, Bolivia.....	370
87 Pastoralists' breeding criteria – insights from a community member	372
88 The Bororo Zebu of the WoDaaBe in Niger – selection for reliability in an extreme environment	373
89 Community-driven breeding programmes for local pig breeds in north Viet Nam.....	375
90 The cost of heterosis	378
91 Nigeria's Village Poultry Improvement Scheme.....	378
92 A community-based and participatory dairy goat cross-breeding programme in a low-input smallholder system in the eastern highlands of Kenya.....	379
93 Economic values.....	389
94 Glossary: conservation	400
95 Red Maasai sheep – accelerating threats	401
96 Lleyn sheep of Wales – revival in fortunes in tune with modern demands.....	403
97 Decision-making in conservation and utilization – use of genetic diversity data.....	409
98 Spatial analysis of genetic diversity	410
99 <i>In situ</i> conservation of the Norwegian Feral Sheep.....	413
100 Examples of incentive payment schemes at the national level.....	414
101 An index of economic development potential for targeting <i>in situ</i> conservation investments	415
102 Community-based <i>in situ</i> conservation programme – a case from Patagonia	416
103 Changes in production systems leading to replacement of local buffaloes – a case from Nepal	417

BOXES - continued

104 Revival of the native Red and White Friesian cattle in the Netherlands	421
105 Revival of the Enderby cattle in New Zealand	421
106 Glossary: objective decision aids.....	424
107 Optimum allocation of conservation funds – an example featuring African cattle breeds.....	425
108 The Svalbard Global Seed Vault: an international seed depository in the Arctic.....	428

TABLES

1 Regional overview of Country Reports	2
2 Country Reports received	3
3 Reports from international organisations.....	4
4 Origin and domestication of livestock species	12
5 Status of information recorded in the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources	28
6 Distribution of mammalian species by region	30
7 Distribution of avian species by region	31
8 Proportion of the world's population size (2005) and number of local and regional transboundary breeds (January 2006) of the major livestock species by region.....	38
9 Mammalian species – number of reported local breeds	39
10 Avian species – number of reported local breeds	39
11 Mammalian species – number of reported regional transboundary breeds	40
12 Avian species – number of reported regional transboundary breeds	40
13 Mammalian species – number of reported international transboundary breeds	41
14 Avian Species – number of reported international transboundary breeds	41
15 Number of extinct mammalian breeds.....	47
16 Number of extinct avian breeds	47
17 Years of extinction.....	47
18 Reclassification of regional and international transboundary breeds from 1999 to 2006	48
19 Changes in risk status of transboundary breeds from 1999 to 2006.....	49
20 Risk status of transboundary breeds reported after 1999.....	49
21 Changes in risk status of local breeds (1999) reclassified as transboundary breeds (2006).....	50
22 Changes in risk status of local breeds from 1999 to 2006	50
23 Risk status of local breeds reported after 1999.....	51
24 Workforce employed in agriculture and land area per agricultural worker.....	81
25 Number of animals by species/1000 human population	84
26 Number of animals by species/1000 ha agricultural land.....	84
27 Production of food of animal origin (kg/person/year)	85
28 Production of fibres skins and hides (1000 mt/year)	88
29 Trends in the use of animals for draught power	89
30 Roles of livestock by livelihood strategy.....	98
31 Selected studies indicating breed difference in resistance/tolerance to specific diseases.....	102
32 Mammalian breeds reported to DAD-IS as having resistance/tolerance to specific diseases or parasites	104
33 Breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to trypanosomiasis	104
34 Breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to tick-burden.....	105
35 Breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to tick-borne diseases	105
36 Breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to internal parasites/worms.....	106
37 Breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to foot rot.....	107
38 Cattle breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to leukosis	107
39 Breeds reported to DAD-IS as showing resistance/tolerance to avian diseases	108
40 Impact of recent disease epidemics	126
41 Examples of breeds affected by the FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom in 2001.....	127

TABLES - continued

42	Projected trends in meat consumption from 2000 to 2050	138
43	Projected trends in milk consumption from 2000 to 2050.....	138
44	Standards in the livestock market and implications for small-scale producers	143
45	Trends in production of meat and milk in developing and developed countries	150
46	Livestock numbers and production of the world's livestock production systems – averages for 2001-2003	151
47	The developing countries with the highest meat and milk production (2004)	151
48	Agriculture's contribution to global greenhouse gas and other emissions	156
49	Estimated number of pastoralists in different geographic regions.....	160
50	Land with rainfed crop production potential	164
51	Main crop–animal interactions in crop-based livestock systems.....	165
52	Shares of irrigated production in total crop production of developing countries	168
53	Sources of information (Country Report sections) for the national level assessments.....	178
54	Institutional assessment – infrastructure and capacities and participation	181
55	Institutional assessment – research and knowledge.....	182
56	Institutional assessment – state of policy development	183
57	Organizations and networks that play or may play a role in animal genetic resources management at regional/subregional level.....	186
58	Institutional assessment at country level	195
59	List of international organizations and contributed reports on their activities	201
60	Countries prioritizing breeding activities (by species)	203
61	Structured breeding activities for the main livestock species	204
62	Strategies and tools used in cattle breeding	204
63	Training, research and farmers' organizations in current policies.....	207
64	Stakeholder involvement in the development of animal genetic resources	208
65	Number of countries reporting the use of artificial insemination	209
66	Importance of species and locally adapted versus exotic breeds in current policies	210
67	List of subsample countries that provided information in predefined tables.....	220
68	Strategies and tools used in sheep breeding.....	221
69	Strategies and tools used in goat breeding.....	221
70	Strategies and tools used in pig breeding.....	222
71	Strategies and tools used in chicken breeding	222
72	Countries reporting structured breeding activities in minor animal species.....	223
73	Stakeholder involvement in structured cattle breeding activities	223
74	Stakeholder involvement in structured sheep breeding activities.....	223
75	Stakeholder involvement in structured goat breeding activities	224
76	Stakeholder involvement in structured pig breeding activities.....	224
77	Number of countries with conservation programmes.....	226
78	Conservation activities at the global level	229
79	Conservation activities in Africa	232
80	Conservation activities in Asia	234
81	Conservation activities in Europe and the Caucasus	236
82	Conservation activities in Latin America and the Caribbean	237
83	Conservation activities in the Near and Middle East.....	238
84	Conservation activities in North America	239
85	Conservation activities in the Southwest Pacific	239
86	Use of biotechnologies by region	243
87	Use of biotechnologies by species	244
88	Instruments for sustaining livestock production systems	285
89	Instruments in the field of conservation	288
90	Instruments in the field of genetic improvement	290
91	Instruments related to institutions active in genetic improvement	295
92	Instruments in the field of standard setting.....	296

TABLES - continued

93 Instruments for promoting trade in livestock products.....	298
94 Instruments regulating import and export of genetic material.....	298
95 Instruments regulating livestock movements and import and export of live animals and livestock products.....	301
96 Regulations in the field of animal health.....	301
97 Information recorded for mammalian species in the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources.....	317
98 Information recorded for avian species in the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources...	318
99 Breeding objectives in ruminants.....	360
100 Breeding objectives in pigs.....	364
101 Breeding objectives in poultry.....	365
102 Overview of valuation methodologies.....	391
103 Conservation benefits and costs under a range of valuation methodologies – the case of the Box Keken pig (Yucatan, Mexico).....	393
104 Comparisons of biological, operational, and institutional factors influencing plant and animal genetic resources conservation.....	407
105 Current status of cryoconservation techniques by species.....	420

FIGURES

1 Assignment of countries to regions and subregions in this report.....	7
2 Archaeological map of agricultural homelands and spread of Neolithic/Formative cultures, with approximate radiocarbon dates.....	11
3 Major centres of livestock domestication – based on archaeological and molecular genetic information.....	15
4 Origin and migration routes of domestic cattle in Africa.....	20
5 Proportion of national breed populations for which population figures have been reported.....	29
6 Regional distribution of major livestock species in 2005.....	32
7 Distribution of the world's mammalian breeds by species.....	33
8 Distribution of the world's avian breeds by species.....	34
9 Number of local and transboundary breeds at global level.....	36
10 Number of local and transboundary breeds at regional level.....	37
11 Proportion of the world's breeds by risk status category.....	42
12 Risk status of the world's mammalian breeds in January 2006: absolute (table) and percentage (chart) figures by species.....	43
13 Risk status of the world's avian breeds in January 2006: absolute (table) and percentage (chart) figures by species.....	44
14 Risk status of the world's mammalian breeds in January 2006 absolute (table) and percentage (chart) figures by region.....	45
15 Risk status of the world's avian breeds in January 2006 absolute (table) and percentage (chart) figures by region.....	46
16 Local, regional and international breeds in 1999 and 2006.....	48
17 Changes in risk status of transboundary breeds from 1999 to 2006.....	49
18 Changes in risk status of local breeds from 1999 to 2006.....	50
19 Distribution of transboundary breeds.....	58
20 Distribution of Holstein-Friesian cattle.....	60
21 Distribution of Charolais cattle.....	60
22 Distribution of transboundary cattle breeds with Latin American, African or South Asian origin..	62
23 Distribution of transboundary sheep breeds.....	65
24 Gene flow of improved Awassi and Assaf sheep from Israel.....	68
25 Distribution of Saanen goats.....	69
26 Distribution of Boer goats.....	69

FIGURES - continued

27 Distribution of Large White pigs.....	71
28 Contribution of agriculture and livestock to total GDP by region.....	80
29 Contribution of livestock to agricultural GDP.....	80
30 Percentage of permanent pasture in total agricultural land.....	81
31 Livestock density in relation to human population.....	82
32 Livestock density per square kilometre of agricultural land.....	83
33 Net exports – meat.....	86
34 Net exports – milk equivalent.....	86
35 Net exports – eggs.....	87
36 Number of disasters by type and year.....	120
37 Changes in the meat consumption of developing and developed countries.....	137
38 Distribution of livestock production systems.....	149
39 Meat production from ruminants versus monogastrics in developing and developed countries....	150
40 Changes in the quantity of cereals used as feed (1992-1994 and 2020).....	152
41 Changes in the distribution of the size of pig farms in Brazil (1985 to 1996).....	153
42 Estimated contribution of livestock to total phosphate supply on agricultural land in areas presenting a phosphate mass balance of more than 10 kg per hectare in selected Asian countries (1998 to 2000).....	155
43 State of institutions – regional comparison.....	184
44 State of institutions – subregional comparison within Africa.....	193
45 State of institutions – subregional comparison within Asia.....	193
46 State of institutions – subregional comparisons within Latin America and the Caribbean.....	194
47 Information required to design management strategies.....	314
48 Structure of the poultry breeding industry.....	351

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PART 1: The state of agricultural biodiversity in the livestock sector		
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Status of animal genetic resources	Barbara Rischkowsky, Dafydd Pilling, Beate Scherf	Mateusz Wieczorek
Flows of animal genetic resources	Evelyn Mathias, Ilse Koehler-Rollefson, Paul Mundy	Beate Scherf, Annette von Lossau
Uses and values of animal genetic resources	Dafydd Pilling, Barbara Rischkowsky with Manuel Luque Cuesta	
Animal genetic resources and disease resistance	Dafydd Pilling, Barbara Rischkowsky	Steve Bishop, Jan Slingenbergh
Threats to livestock genetic diversity	Dafydd Pilling, Claire Heffernan, Michael Goe	Anni McLeod, Simon Mack, Jan Slingenbergh
PART 2: Livestock sector trends		
	Pierre Gerber, Dafydd Pilling, Barbara Rischkowsky	Hans Schiere
PART 3: The state of capacities in animal genetic resource management		
Institutions and stakeholders	Maria Brockhaus	Irene Hoffmann, Beate Scherf., Ricardo Cardellino, Jean Boyazoglu, Annette von Lossau, Ilse Koehler-Rollefson
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International legal framework - major instruments	Dafydd Pilling drawing on FAO legislative study No 89	Clive Stannard, Niels Louwaars
Patenting – an emerging legal issue	Dafydd Pilling with Claudio Chiarolla	Niels Louwaars, Morten Walløe Tvedt
Regulatory frameworks at regional level	Dafydd Pilling drawing on FAO legislative study No 89	Olivier Diana, Sipke Joost Hiemstra, Danielle Manzella, Hermann Schulte-Coerne, Kai-Uwe Sprenger
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Research priorities	all authors	all reviewers
PART 5: Needs and challenges in animal genetic resources management		
	Barbara Rischkowsky Irene Hoffmann	Animal Genetic Resources Group and CGRFA Secretariat

Preface

Agricultural biodiversity is the product of thousands of years of activity during which humans have sought to meet their needs in a wide range of climatic and ecological conditions. Well-adapted livestock have been an essential element of agricultural production systems, particularly important in harsh environments where crop farming is difficult or impossible.

The capacity of agro-ecosystems to maintain and increase their productivity, and to adapt to changing circumstances, remains vital to the food security of the world's population. For livestock keepers, animal genetic diversity is a resource to be drawn upon to select stocks and develop new breeds. More broadly, genetically diverse livestock populations provide society with a greater range of options to meet future challenges.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has, since the early 1960s, provided assistance to countries to characterize their animal genetic resources for food and agriculture (AnGR) and develop conservation strategies. In 1990, FAO's Council recommended the development of a comprehensive programme for the sustainable management of AnGR at the global level. A meeting of experts in 1992, and subsequent sessions of FAO's governing bodies, provided impetus to the development of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, which was initiated in 1993. The Animal Production and Health Division of FAO was designated as the Global Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources, and given the role of coordinating further development of the Global Strategy. In 1995, the Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference took the decision to broaden the mandate of the Commission on Plant Genetic Resources to cover all aspects of agro-biodiversity of relevance to food and agriculture; (the Commission, originally established in 1983, was the first permanent intergovernmental forum dealing with agricultural genetic resources). Work on AnGR was the first element of this expanded role. The Commission was renamed the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA).

The international agenda

FAO's commitment to maintaining agricultural biodiversity is consistent with the increasing prominence of biodiversity on the agenda of the international community. This development is the result of a recognition that threats to biodiversity are increasing, whether measured in terms of the extinction of species, the destruction of ecosystems and habitats, or the loss of genetic diversity within the species utilized for agriculture. The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit) held in Rio de Janeiro was an important landmark. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), signed in Rio by 150 governments, committed the nations of the world to conserve their biodiversity, to ensure its sustainable use, and to provide for equitable sharing of the benefits arising from its use. By 2005, 188 countries had become Parties to the CBD. The Conference of Parties (COP) of the CBD (the governing body of the convention) has specifically recognized the special nature of agricultural biodiversity and the need for distinctive solutions in this field (see for example decision V/5, taken at the Fifth Meeting of the COP in 2000).

Agenda 21, adopted by 179 governments at the time at Rio Earth Summit in 1992, is a plan of action to be undertaken at global, national and local levels by governments, the organizations of the United Nations System and other stakeholders, to address all areas of human impact on the environment. The Agenda's Chapter 14, "Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development", addressed the question of increasing food production and enhancing food security in a sustainable way. It included programme areas related to the conservation and development of AnGR.

The threat to food security posed by the loss of biodiversity was noted in the Plan of Action adopted at the 1996 World Food Summit held in Rome. Under Objective 3.2(f) of the Rome Declaration, the governments of the world affirmed that they would "promote the conservation and sustainable utilization of animal genetic resources."

Meeting the Millennium Development Goals, adopted by the United Nations in 2000, presents another great challenge to the international community. The adverse effects of biodiversity loss on progress

towards the achievement of these goals are cause for concern (UNDP, 2002)¹. As well as underpinning food security, biological diversity is the basis of many economic activities, and is vital to ecosystem functioning. Declining biodiversity tends to be associated with greater shocks and fluctuations in ecosystems, and it is the poor that are usually the most vulnerable to these effects. Many poor people are closely dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, and frequently have a wealth of knowledge regarding the plants and animals with which they work. It has been suggested that this knowledge could be a source of income for the poor if it leads to the development and marketing of unique biological products. In reality, the extent to which the benefits of such developments actually accrue to the poor is often limited – highlighting the need not only for conservation of biodiversity, but for equitable frameworks for its utilization.

Within the international framework for the management and conservation of biological diversity, the work of CGRFA focuses on the particular features and problems associated with the management of agro-biodiversity, and the need for distinctive solutions for this field.

¹ UNDP. 2002. *Building on hidden opportunities to achieve the Millenium Development Goals. Poverty reduction through sustainable biodiversity use.* by I Koziell & C.I. McNeill. New York.

The reporting and preparatory process

In 1999, the CGRFA during its Eighth Regular Session agreed that FAO should coordinate the preparation of a country-driven report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW-AnGR)². In 2004, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (ITWG-AnGR) – a subsidiary body established by the Commission to address issues relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of AnGR, reviewed progress in the preparation of the SoW-AnGR and endorsed a draft outline including a Report on Strategic Priorities for Action. The CGRFA subsequently endorsed this outline at its Tenth Regular Session. The agreed timetable for the preparation of the SoW-AnGR was that a draft would be available for review by the CGRFA at its Eleventh Regular Session in 2007, and that the report would be finalized at the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

The first draft of the SoW-AnGR was made available to the Fourth Session of the ITWG-AnGR in December 2006. The Working Group requested more time to undertake a review of the report. It was agreed that members of the Working Group would provide comments on the draft to FAO by 31 January 2007, in order for FAO to undertake any necessary revisions prior to the presentation of the SoW-AnGR to the CGRFA at its Eleventh Regular Session. The Working Group further agreed that the review process should be open to all Member Countries of the Commission. FAO, therefore, invited all CGRFA Member Countries to submit comments within the agreed time frame.

Inputs to the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources reporting process

The process of preparing the SoW-AnGR included a number of elements through which the information required was gathered and analysed.

Country Reports

In order to ensure the country-driven nature of the process, FAO in March 2001, invited 188 countries to submit Country Reports assessing their AnGR. Guidelines for the preparation of the Country Reports were produced, including a proposed structure. Regional training and follow-up workshops were conducted between July 2001 and November 2004. The overall objectives of the Country Reports were to analyse and report on the state of AnGR, on the status and trends of these resources, and on their current and potential contribution to food, agriculture and rural development; to assess the state of countries' capacity to manage AnGR, in order to determine priorities for future capacity building; and to identify national priorities for action in the field of conservation and sustainable utilization of AnGR, and related requirements for international cooperation. The first Country Reports were received in the second half of 2002, with the majority being submitted during 2003 and 2004. The latest Country Report was submitted in October 2005, bringing the total to 169 (Tables 1 and 2).

The fact that the submission of the Country Reports was spread over several years meant that as the process of preparing the SoW-AnGR progressed, more information became available for analysis. For this reason, it should be noted that the latest arrivals among the Country Reports could not be fully included in the process of analysis and report preparation. The length of the reporting process also means that the information presented in the SoW-AnGR does not necessarily reflect the very latest developments in the state of institutions and capacity at the national level.

² The term animal genetic resources (AnGR) as applied throughout the report is an abbreviation of animal genetic resources used for food and agriculture and excludes fish.

Table 1
Regional overview of Country Reports

Region ³	COUNTRY REPORTS		
	Submitted		Total
	Final	Draft	
Africa	45	4	49
Asia	22	4	26
Europe and the Caucasus	38	3	41
Latin America and the Caribbean	21	9	30
Near and Middle East	6	3	9
North America	2	0	2
Southwest Pacific	9	3	12
Total	143	26	169

Reports received by 31 December 2005

³ Note that these regions do not correspond to the usual FAO regions; see below for further explanation.

Table 2
Country Reports received

Region	Countries
Africa (49)	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Asia (26)	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam
Europe and the Caucasus (41)	Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro ⁴ , Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom
Latin America and the Caribbean (30)	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Near and Middle East (9)	Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen
North America (2)	Canada, United States of America
Southwest Pacific (12)	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Reports received by 31 December 2005

⁴ Since June 2006 Serbia and Montenegro have become independent states. However, in the SoW-AnGR they are still treated as one country as in Country Report submitted to FAO.

Reports from international organizations

Following a request from the ITWG, in August 2004, FAO invited 77 international organizations to submit a report of their work in the field of AnGR as a contribution to the SoW-AnGR. These reports were to cover activities such as research, extension, education, training, public awareness, communications and advocacy, and also to include a description of the organization and information on institutional capacities which support activities in AnGR. Specific subjects to be described included (if applicable) inventory and characterization, sustainable use and development, conservation, valuation, policy and legislation, documentation and information databases, animal and human health, and food safety, as well as opportunities and proposals for interaction with other organizations and United Nations agencies. As of June 2006, nine organizations had submitted reports (Table 3). Reports were received from four international non-governmental organizations, three intergovernmental organizations, and two research organizations. A further three international organizations informed FAO that they were not engaged in AnGR-related activities.

Table 3
Reports from international organisations

Organization	Title of the submission	Received
CGIAR Centres	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centres Report to FAO for input into the SoW and the draft report on strategic priorities for action on FAnGR Section I: Description of the CGIAR Institutes and Programmes	May 2004
SAVE Foundation	SAVE Foundation (Safeguard for Agricultural Varieties in Europe) Brief Portrait April 2004	May 2004
D8 Countries	Report on Animal Genetic Resources in the D-8 Countries – Strategic Priorities for Action; and Reports D8 Seminar on Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources Cairo, Egypt, 11–13 January 2004 D8 Seminar on Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, Islamabad, Pakistan, 1–3 August 2003; Report on Workshop on Food Security in D 8 countries, Babolsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, 16–20 October 2000 Report on Workshop on Food Security in D 8 countries, Islamabad, Pakistan, 24–26 November 1999	June 2004 September 2004
LPP	League for Pastoral Peoples Report on Activities of the League for Pastoral Peoples	November 2004
OIE	World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Oral presentation to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 10th Session (to be used thereafter as the OIE input in reply to the FAO AN21/47 request)	November 2004
ACSAD	Arab Center for the Studies of Arid zones and Dry lands (ACSAD) The Activities of the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid zones and Dry lands concerning the Animal Genetic Resources	December 2004
IAMZ	The Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ) Report on Training activities	January 2005
EAAP	EAAP (European Association for Animal Production) Report of the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources	February 2005
ISAG	International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG) Report of the ISAG/FAO advisory group on animal genetic diversity	March 2005

Thematic studies

In addition to the Country Reports and the reports from international organizations, a number of thematic studies were commissioned by FAO. These studies were intended to contribute to the understanding of specific topics likely not to be covered in Country Reports, but relevant to the preparation of the SoW-AnGR. During the period 2002 to 2006, 12 thematic studies were prepared:

- *Opportunities for incorporating genetic elements into the management of farm animal diseases: policy issues.* A review paper on the potential of genetic elements in the management of disease, technical opportunities, and benefits arising from the incorporation of these elements in effective disease management⁵ (2002);
- *Measurement of domestic animal diversity (MoDAD) – a review of recent diversity studies.* A survey evaluating the current status of molecular genetic research in domestic animal species, with emphasis on characterization of AnGR⁶ (2004);
- *The economics of farm animal genetic resource conservation and sustainable use: why is it important and what have we learned?* A study on the valuation of AnGR, summarizing methodological approaches and knowledge gaps⁷ (2004);
- *Conservation strategies for animal genetic resources.* A study contrasting opportunities, challenges, biological characteristics, institutional infrastructure and operational considerations influencing management of plant and animal genetic resources⁸ (2004);
- *Environmental effects on animal genetic resources.* An evaluation and synthesis of the evidence available on a spectrum of environmental factors and their effects on AnGR at the individual animal and the breeding population levels⁹ (2004);
- *The legal framework for the management of animal genetic resources.* An introductory study of policy and legal frameworks for the management of AnGR including a survey of countries in different world regions¹⁰ (2004, printed revised version 2005);
- *The impact of disasters and emergencies on animal genetic resources.* A study which provides an overview of potential disasters and their possible impact on AnGR. It also provides an analysis of the effects of emergency responses. It proposes decision support guidelines for disaster management¹¹ (2006);
- *The state of development of biotechnologies as they relate to the management of animal genetic resources and their potential application in developing countries.* An introductory study of biotechnology applications and their use in developing countries, which includes information provided in Country Reports¹² (2006);
- *Exchange, use and conservation of animal genetic resources: policy and regulatory options.* A study which identifies how exchange practices related to AnGR affect the various stakeholders in the livestock sector (2006);
- *A strategic approach for conservation and continued use of farm animal genetic resources.* A study which outlines patterns of change in AnGR use and their impact on conservation. It summarizes current experience, and the capacity of alternative conservation measures, considering the needs and aspirations of the various stakeholders whose livelihoods depend on animal production¹³ (2006);

⁵ Background Study Paper No. 18

⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04 inf. 3

⁷ Background Study Paper No. 21

⁸ Background Study Paper No. 22

⁹ Background Study Paper No.28

¹⁰ Background Study Paper No. 24

¹¹ Background Study Paper No. 32

¹² Background Study Paper No. 33

¹³ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/Inf.6

- *People and animals. Traditional livestock keepers: guardians of domestic animal diversity.* A documentation of 13 case studies from all over the world on how communities manage their local AnGR, demonstrating the value of local knowledge in preserving the equilibrium between farmers, animals and environment¹⁴ (2007);
- *Gene flow in animal genetic resources. A study on status, impact and trends.* A study providing analysis of the magnitude and direction of movement of genetic material of the four major farm animal species: cattle, pigs, goats, and sheep. Determining factors are identified and selected; examples of impacts on economic development, poverty reduction and biodiversity in developing countries are presented (2007).

Preparation of the report

Sources of information

Different sections of the SoW-AnGR required different approaches. Some sections were largely based on the information provided in the 148 Country Reports available by June 2005. Other sections drew heavily on the wider literature or on expert knowledge rather than on the information gathered specifically for the SoW-AnGR process. FAO's Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS)¹⁵ and the FAOSTAT¹⁶ statistical database were also utilized. Regional e-mail consultations, organized by FAO in late 2005 to review the draft Report on Strategic Priorities for Action, provided an additional source of information, particularly on institutional capacities.

Part 1 describes the state of agricultural diversity in the livestock sector. The chapter draws on a number of sources. The description of AnGR inventory and of the extent of genetic erosion is based on information drawn from DAD-IS. This information system, which was launched in 1996, enables National Coordinators to update their national breed databank via the Internet. The guidelines for the development of Country Reports encouraged countries to report breed-related data and information directly to DAD-IS, and not to include details on breeds in the Country Reports. Nonetheless, the Country Reports contained a wealth of breed-related information that was not reported to DAD-IS. As a result of this development, and in order to ensure that the analysis for the SoW-AnGR was based on the most up-to-date information available, FAO provided for the extraction of these data from Country Reports and their entry into DAD-IS. National Coordinators were then requested to validate and further complete their national breed databanks. It was also thought desirable to enable the analysis for the SoW-AnGR to be based on breeds and not only on national breed populations; i.e. so that populations of the same breed in different countries were not counted as separate breeds. To this end, linkages between breed populations in different countries were introduced into the Global Databank, based on information on names, origin and development, importation and geographic location. Lists of all national breed populations and their proposed linkages were sent to National Coordinators for review. The analysis of the data for the purposes of the SoW-AnGR was carried out in January 2006, by which time data from all 169 Country Reports had been entered into the system.

The section on uses and values of AnGR is based on FAOSTAT for population and production statistics, and on the Country Reports for more qualitative information on livestock functions. The section on genetic resistance to disease draws on DAD-IS and the wider scientific literature. Broader sources were also used to describe the origin and domestication of AnGR, sharing and exchange of AnGR, and threats to AnGR.

Part 2 describes livestock sector trends and their implications for AnGR, and draws on a wide range of literature and statistics.

Part 3 describes the state of human capacity, breeding and conservation strategies, legislation and the use of biotechnologies. This part of the report is largely based on the information in the Country Reports. However, the sections on regional and international legislation, and emerging legal and policy issues draw on wider sources.

¹⁴ FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture

¹⁵ <http://www.fao.org/dad-is/>

¹⁶ <http://faostat.fao.org/>

Part 4 on the state of the art in AnGR management is largely based on the wider scientific literature. For the preparation of the section on the state of the art in the AnGR conservation, an expert meeting was convened at FAO in Rome, in July 2005. The participants discussed the approach to the section and allocated writing tasks. The first draft was reviewed by all members in the writing group in October 2005. In November 2005, a workshop “Options and Strategies for the Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources” took place in Montpellier, France. The participants at this workshop were given the opportunity to review the revised version of the conservation section.

Part 5 analyses the needs and challenges for AnGR management, based on the evidence provided in the other chapters of the report. This analysis relates the current state of erosion and threats to AnGR to current capacities in AnGR management, and the state of knowledge regarding methodologies and their application.

Regional classification of countries

The assignment of countries to the regions and subregions used for the purposes of the SoW-AnGR was based on a number of factors that influence biodiversity, including production environments, cultural specificities and the distribution of shared AnGR. Future collaboration in the establishment of Regional Focal Points was also considered, as was the experience gained from the process of convening SoW-AnGR subregional follow-up workshops in 2003 and 2004. Thus, the assignments do not follow exactly the standard FAO regions used in FAO statistics or for FAO election purposes (although for most countries the assignment does not differ from the standard classification). The proposed classification was reviewed at a meeting of Regional Facilitators on “Strategy for Regional Consultations” held in August 2005. The resulting classification distinguishes seven regions, of which three regions were further subdivided: Africa (East Africa, North and West Africa, Southern Africa); Asia (Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia); Europe and the Caucasus; Latin America and the Caribbean (Caribbean, Central America, South America); the Near and Middle East; North America; and the Southwest Pacific.

Figure 1
Assignment of countries to regions and subregions in this report



