

March 2007



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Unidas
para la
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y la
Alimentación

Item 2 of the Draft Provisional Agenda

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Eleventh Regular Session

Rome, 11-15 June 2007

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

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

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) during its Eighth Regular Session, in 1999, agreed that FAO should coordinate the preparation of a country-driven report on *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.¹ In 2002, the Commission established a timetable for completing *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* by 2006, including a review of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* at the Tenth Regular Session in 2004.² The Commission requested the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources to review a first draft of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* in 2006, prior to it being considered by the Commission, at its next session.³

2. The Commission also decided that *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* should be finalised at the first International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.⁴ In November 2005, the Director-General accepted the offer from the Government of Switzerland to host the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources at Interlaken, Switzerland, in September 2007.

3. The present document describes the process that was followed to prepare the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, and outlines the next steps for its finalization. The preparation of the *Strategic Priorities for Action* is described in the document, *Draft Strategic Priorities for Action for the Sustainable Use, Development and Conservation of Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.⁵

II. PREPARATORY PROCESS

4. The country-driven preparation of the *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, coordinated by the Global Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources in FAO, consisted of the following main steps.

Submission of Country Reports

5. The first Country Reports were received in the second half of 2002, with the majority submitted between 2003 and 2004. To date, 169 Country Reports have been received by FAO, of these, 142 officially submitted. The other Country Reports remain in draft (Table 1). The large number of Country Reports from all regions is a clear indicator of the success of *the* process. A list of participating countries is provided in *Appendix 1*.

6. The 148 Country Reports available by June 2005 were used to prepare the first draft of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and the *Strategic Priorities for Action*. All 169 Country Reports have also been used in updating the breed-related database in DAD-IS.

¹ CGRFA-8/99/REP, paragraph 13.

² CGRFA-9/02/REP, paragraph 8.

³ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 55.

⁴ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 56.

⁵ CGRFA-11/07/6

Table 1: Status of Country Report Preparation

Region	COUNTRY REPORTS		
	Submitted		Total
	Final	Draft	
Africa	44	3	47
Asia	18	3	21
Europe	38	3	41
Latin America and Caribbean	20	10	30
Near East	11	5	16
North America	2	0	2
South West Pacific	9	3	12
Total	142	27	169

Reports from International Organizations

7. FAO invited 77 international organizations to submit reports on their activities in relation to animal genetic resources, to contribute to the preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. The organizations were asked to report on a wide-range of topics, including research, extension services, education, training, public awareness, communications and advocacy.

8. Nine organizations (see *Appendix 2*) submitted reports. Reports were received from international non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, and research organizations.

Thematic Studies

9. The Commission agreed that FAO should develop a number of thematic studies involving competent organizations and/or experts, to address specific topics as a contribution to *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. During the period 2002-2006, 12 thematic studies were prepared (see *Appendix 3*). Some of these have been made available to the Commission as Background Study Papers.⁶ Other thematic studies are available on the FAO website.⁷

Expert Meetings and International Conferences

10. FAO has facilitated the involvement and contributions of a diverse range of technical experts to assist in the preparation of the technical chapters of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. As requested by the Commission in 2004,⁸ FAO initiated a process for the development of a conceptual approach to the conservation of animal genetic resources. As a first step, an informal meeting of experts was organized in July 2005. Participants discussed a broad range of technical elements, including various state of the art conservation methods and the cost-effectiveness of the available options.

11. In November 2005, an International Conference was held in Montpellier, France, which focused on "Options and Strategies for the Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources". The

⁶ Background Study Papers No 18, 21, 22, 24, 28; <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/docs.htm#bsp>.

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/dad-is>.

⁸ CGRFA-10/04/REP, paragraph 50.

conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (France), the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), The Government of Australia, FAO and the CGIAR System-wide Genetic Resources Programme/ International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, and was hosted by AGROPOLIS, a consortium of scientific organizations based in Montpellier. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) and the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) were also involved in the organization of the conference.

12. The Montpellier Conference was reviewed and analyzed the options and strategies for conserving farm animal genetic resources with the primary emphasis on the needs of developing countries. It brought together 63 individuals from 22 countries, including scientists and managers of conservation programmes, and other farm animal genetic resource experts. The “Report on the International Conference on Options and Strategies for the Conservation of Farm animal Genetic Resources Agropolis, Montpellier, France, November 7-10, 2005”, was made available to the Working Group.⁹

13. An informal meeting of experts, in July 2005, and the outputs of the Montpellier Conference, as well as follow-up contributions by experts, were instrumental in facilitating the preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and the preparation of the information document on a conceptual approach to conservation.¹⁰

14. Based upon the various inputs, the Global Focal Point assembled a first draft of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, which contains the scientific and technical data and information on the state of animal genetic resources and their production environments, the state of the art in terms of management, and the state of capacities to use, develop and conserve animal genetic resources.

Review of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* by the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources

15. The Working Group, at its fourth session in 2006, in considering the *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, agreed that its members would provide comments on the first draft of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, by February 15, 2007, so that FAO could make *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* available for consideration by the Commission in 2007, and forward it to the First International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources for release as a technical report.¹¹

16. The Working Group noted that the release of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* presents an excellent opportunity to enhance public awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources, and recommended that FAO prepare an Executive Summary in all FAO languages, to appeal to a wide audience, and that other communication tools be prepared to promote public awareness.¹²

17. By the end of February 2007, FAO had received comments from ten members of the Commission, of which six members of the Working Group. The editorial suggestions and corrections were incorporated, where possible. Some countries provided updated data on the state of their capacity to manage animal genetic resources since the preparation of their Country Report, suggesting specific revisions to various tables in the draft report. Footnotes noting these comments were added to the relevant tables.

⁹ <http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/subjects/en/genetics/documents/fagr.pdf>

¹⁰ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/Inf. 6.

¹¹ CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraph 11.

¹² CGRFA-11/07/3, paragraph 12.

18. In addition to the incorporation of such changes, the following items were added to *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, since its revision by the Working Group:

- In Part 2: Section B – 3 Grassland-based systems, a short discussion of deforestation in grazing systems has been added.
- Three text boxes were added: Box 14 (Genetic resistance to African swine fever); Box 19 (The concept of productivity); Box 96 (Lleyn sheep of Wales – revival in fortunes in tune with modern demands).

III. FINALIZATION OF THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

19. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* is in an advanced state of preparation. The Global Focal Point is finalizing the Regional and Sub-regional Reports, which will be included as annexes in the final version of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*. They will provide a short descriptive section on the farm animal genetic resources in the regions, the main livestock production systems, and an evaluation of the importance of the livestock sector to the regions' economy and food security. The Sub-regional Reports will also contain specific issues and priorities for action that were identified during the regional consultation process.

20. It is foreseen that, following review by the Commission, the printed version of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will be presented at the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources. The various inputs produced in the preparation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will be included as annexes to the final printed version, on a CD-ROM. These include: the thematic studies, the Country Reports, the Regional and Sub-regional Reports, the *Compendium of priorities from country reports*¹³, the *Compendium of priorities from regional consultations*¹⁴, the reports by International Organisations, the list of breeds documented in the Global Databank for Animal Genetic Resources, the list of breeds at risk, and the list of authors, reviewers and their affiliations.

21. The following steps are required to finalize *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*:

- Preparation, translation, printing and distribution of the Executive Summary, in all FAO languages, of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*.
- Preparation for the publication and distribution of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* following the Eleventh Regular Session of the Commission.
- Presentation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* and the Executive Summary to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources.

22. FAO does not have the financial resources to ensure translation of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* into all languages of the Organization. *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* will be made available at the International Technical Conference in English only. Efforts are ongoing to source extra-budgetary resources for the translation of the document to other FAO languages. No commitments have so far been received.

¹³ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/Inf. 2.

¹⁴ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/Inf. 4.

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT FROM THE COMMISSION

23. The Commission may wish to:
- i. Request FAO to prepare the printed version of *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, on the basis of the current revised draft, for presentation to the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources;
 - ii. Commend that the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources welcome *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources* as an authoritative survey of the sector, upon which future actions for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources can be based;
 - iii. Urge donors to make available the resources necessary to translate and publish *The State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources*, in all FAO languages.

*Appendix 1***COUNTRY REPORTS SUBMITTED BY 31 DECEMBER 2005, AND USED TO PREPARE
THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES**

Region	Countries
Africa (47)	Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, DR, Congo, Republic of, Côte d'Ivoire, 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, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Asia (21)	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Republic of, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam
Europe (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, Republic of, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, 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
Near East (16)	Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Islamic Republic of, Iraq, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Oman, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, 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

*Appendix 2***SUBMISSIONS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

Organisation	Title of the submission	Received
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Centers	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 (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 Report on D8 Seminar on Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources Cairo, Egypt, 11-13 January 2004 Report on 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
League for Pastoral Peoples	Report on Activities of the League for Pastoral Peoples	November 2004
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)	Oral presentation to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, 10th Session	November 2004
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
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza (IAMZ)	Report on Training activities	January 2005
European Association for Animal Production (EAAP)	Report of the Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources (EAAP-WG-AGR)	February 2005
International Society for Animal Genetics (ISAG)	Report of the ISAG/FAO advisory group on animal genetic diversity	March 2005

Appendix 3**THEMATIC STUDIES**

- *Opportunities for incorporating genetic elements into the management of farm animal diseases: policy issues (2002);*¹⁵
- *Measurement of domestic animal diversity (MoDAD) – A review of recent studies (2004);*¹⁶
- *The economics of farm animal genetic resource conservation and sustainable use: Why is it important and what have we learned? (2004);*¹⁷
- *Conservation Strategies for Animal Genetic Resources (2004);*¹⁸
- *The legal framework for the management of animal genetic resources (2004, printed revised version 2006);*¹⁹
- *Environmental effects on animal genetic resources (2006);*²⁰
- *People and animals. Traditional livestock keepers: Guardians of domestic animal diversity (2007);*²¹
- *The state of development and potential of biotechnologies related to the management of animal genetic resources application in developing countries (2006);*²²
- *Gene flow in animal genetic resources. A study on status, impact and trends (2007);*
- *Exchange of animal genetic resources – current practices and their effect on stakeholders in the livestock sector (2007);*
- *A conceptual approach to the conservation and utilization of farm animal genetic resources (2006);*²³
- *The impact of disasters and emergencies on animal genetic resources (2006).*²⁴

¹⁵ Background Study Paper No. 18.

¹⁶ CGRFA/WG-AnGR-3/04/Inf.3.

¹⁷ Background Study Paper No. 21.

¹⁸ Background Study Paper No. 22.

¹⁹ Background Study Paper No. 24.

²⁰ Background Study Paper No. 28.

²¹ FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Biological Diversity for Food and Agriculture.

²² Background Study Paper No. 33.

²³ Discussion paper CGRFA/WG-AnGR-4/06/Inf.6.

²⁴ Background Study Paper No. 32.