



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Cyprus

SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Conservation actions, monitoring of endangered breeds and subsidies for farmers that manage populations of some of these breeds at risk.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Maintaining and some increase in specific breed population numbers.

Future needs

Inclusion of additional species or breeds in the subsidized ones and additional measures for supporting endangered breed management to make it sustainable for the breeders and communities.

2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Specific sections of the department of agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, are responsible for survey and monitoring of AnGR for farm animals.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Specific species of farm animals are monitored whereas other species are not.

Future needs

Closer collaboration between environmental units and agencies, along with NGOs for better monitoring of non-farm animal genetic resources.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Specific regulations have been set as to how a breed can be characterised as native or a local one.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Major implications for PDO applications for specific products.

Future needs

The policies need to be updated in accordance to FAO updated indicators about breed characterization.

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Genetic improvement strategies are in place at national level, only for local sheep and goat breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Significant improvement in sheep and goat production, disease management and inbreeding control for breeds included in genetic improvement scheme.

Future needs

Genetic improvement programs need to be implemented also on a multiplier level, by intermediate breeders to speed up the genetic improvement process. Other breeds and/or species could also be added to the genetic selection scheme, if adequate resources are in place. Additionally, novel genetic improvement technologies should be employed to allow a more rapid improvement, along with novel phenotype recording to select for adaptation and resilience to climatic stress.

Do these measures address:

5.1 Animal identification and recording

Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Since early 2000, the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture have made animal identification mandatory for sheep and goats and provide this service to the breeders, in order to better control and contain the scrapie disease. This is also monitored to a great extent for other farm animal species.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

All productive sheep and goats in Cyprus are properly tagged and identified.

Future needs

Routine animal recording need to be implemented and monitored to a greater extent.

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

EU measures, as part of the Common Agricultural Policy, promote the establishment and operation of breeders' associations. Relevant information is given to breeders through seminars. Dairy cow breeders have created a powerful breeders' association. However, breeders of other species are lagging behind in this aspect.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Cattle breeders handle the marketing of their products in the best possible way, whereas sheep and goat, and other breeders

have no powerful voice or means to better manage their farms.

Future needs

Creation of functional breeders' associations for sheep, goats, pigs and other species.

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Artificial insemination is used as the main reproductive method for dairy cows.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

High yielding dairy cows with genetic connections to world class certified bulls.

Future needs

Further development and implementation of artificial insemination in other species, especially for breeds at risk.

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Genetic modification of animals is prohibited by national and EU legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

No measures are in place for this issue, as genetic material import is only monitored with respect to disease control.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Import of exotic genetic material that cannot cope with local production environment, results in financial losses for the farmers and, sometimes, to genetic dilution of local animal genetic resources. For the sake of increased productivity, which is often not realized, adaptation and reproductive problems are introduced.

Future needs

Tighter control, policies and infrastructure to allow for genetic assessment before introduction of genetic material for the purpose of animal husbandry.

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Conservation programs are in place for specific species and breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Maintenance and increase of population sizes for breeds in conservation programs.

Future needs

Update of conservation measures, better monitoring of inbreeding and inclusion of additional breeds/species in such programs.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Subsidies given to farmers for specific breed conservation, and monitoring of population numbers and purity of the breed.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Maintenance and increase of population sizes for breeds in conservation programs.

Future needs

Update of conservation measures, better monitoring of inbreeding and inclusion of additional breeds/species in such programs.

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Cryopreservation for specific sheep and goat breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Maintenance of particular genotypes that are susceptible to scrapie disease, and which are not maintained in vivo.

Future needs

Inclusion of more species (e.g. local cattle), more variability and replenishment of genetic stock. Additionally, the cryopreserved material should become accessible (under strict control) for reproductive purposes, in cases of endangered breeds.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

No such action takes place.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

No advancement is seen due to no action taking place.

Future needs

Necessary to investigate and explore measures to better manage the production environments and marketing of products from local AnGR.

11. Patenting

Legislation

If legislation is place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture Living organisms in general

Details of the measure(s)

N/A

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.

Legislation Policy

If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

1. Marketing of animal products in general

Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Local products need to be clearly labeled and certified by the relevant public departments. Specific products, such as those derived from milk, need to use local milk and from particular species (e.g. for halloumi cheese).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Positive impact.

Future needs

Increased control and fines for mislabeling of animal products.

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

EU measures are applied to define organic production and products, which are labeled using recognized symbols.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Some impact but not major at the moment.

Future needs

Organic animal farming would need to be supported further.

3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Specific PDO applications are prepared by produced by the stakeholders, reviewed by the Ministry of Agriculture and then submitted to EU for examination.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

If the PDOs are awarded for specific products (such as the halloumi cheese), it will benefit greatly local sheep and goat breeds.

Future needs

Better colaboraiton by involved stakeholders to promote more PDO applications for local breed products.

4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as "free range" or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Adherence to welfare designations are monitored and reported by the Department of Agriculture, and fines are issued for non-conforming producers.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Better management of animal genetic resources in terms of animal welfare.

Future needs

More welfare-related standards should be used to diversify specific products.

5. Safety of food products from animals

Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Diligent tests and zero tolerance for chemicals, antibiotics etc in animal products. No genetically modified animal products are allowed in Cyprus.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

6. Traceability of animal-origin products

Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Traceability, on a state-level, of milk from different species, in particular, differentiation between cow, sheep and goat milk for the production of halloumi cheese, in order for the cheese to contain a particular percentage from each species to abide to particular legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Significant benefit for sheep and goat genetic resources.

Future needs

Implementation of traceability tests to a wider extent and greater effort to implement relevant fines for non-conformity, when necessary.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence or absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoosanitary reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes. Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Veterinary Services are responsible for legal implementation, and EU legislation is followed for a wide range of species.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Positive impact.

Future needs

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

1.1 Animal identification

Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Strict control with respect to diseases for live animals and germplasm imported from EU or third countries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Some impact for specific species.

Future needs

1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Health certificates necessary for all exports made, according to legislation of destination country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The semen used for artificial insemination is under guarantee and tested for diseases, prior to release and use by (mainly cattle) breeders.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ensures disease-free animals and for Cyprus to be free of a number of major diseases.

Future needs

1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Tight control of sheep and goat sales, in particular from nuclei flocks to commercial flocks, with respect to the scrapie disease, along with Brucellosis etc.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Rapid eradication of scrapie disease from commercial sheep flocks, and advancement in control of the disease in goats.

Future needs

1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoosanitary reasons)

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Manure and other waste handling legislation is in place for cattle, pigs and poultry. Mastitis indicators are also legally binding for cattle. Animal feeds are also tested for specific toxins etc prior to being released to farmers.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation

If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?

Details of the measure(s)

Sheep and goat breeds at risk are exempt from culling of animals with genotypes susceptible to scrapie. Commercial breeds are

culled in case of scrapie outbreak.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Inevitable loss of genetic diversity for some breeds.

Future needs

2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Animal transportation, living conditions etc are strongly regulated.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, policies and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Common agricultural policy measures are implemented.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Management of biodiversity

Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g. National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

FAO's Global Plan of actions serves as guidance for managing farm animal biodiversity.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Better management of AnGR through implementation of specific actions related to the Global Plan of Action.

Future needs

A National Biodiversity Strategy needs to be developed and implemented.

3. Environmental protection

Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Measures are proposed and monitored by the Environmental Agency, which is preparing a national strategy for managing climate change and its effects on the environment.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Significant impact.

Future needs

Implementation of prevention measures to mitigate the effects of climate change on AnGR.

4. Overall development of the livestock sector

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation Policy

If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:

Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).

Legislation Policy

Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Support of rural environments through subsidies and other measures, and also of large-scale exports for particular products (e.g. halloumi cheese).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Significant impact for managing endangered breeds and for specific species.

Future needs

More measures specific for particular breed and/or farmer association needs.

5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Strict legislation for access to conserved areas.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Overgrazing makes specific AnGR not desirable in specific regions.

Future needs

Need to provide a community program for grazing and better control of population numbers in particular areas.

6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Strict process for issuing a license for a livestock farm.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Communication and meetings between the government and livestock keepers to solve certain issues or to assist them with particular problems.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources

Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Livestock in general

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.

Submit by e-mail