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Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

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

Country: Mauritius

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: No | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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: No | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

At institutional level, regular updates of number of animals at **species** level is carried out by the livestock extension department.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Capturing livestock population status at breed level will enable the identification of areas where action is most needed.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Although not legally recognised by any laws, the names used to differentiate the existing livestock breeds in Mauritius, including the 'local' ones are officially accepted ones by all stakeholders. e.g. references are made to the local breeds in the National Report on the Convention of Biological Diversity (http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mu/mu-nr-04-en.pdf) and the Mauritius National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mu/mu-nbsap-01-en.pdf)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The provision of Artificial Insemination services using imported semen of "improved" breeds by the Ministry of Agro-Industry at a nominal price to cattle farmers.
Setting up of schemes for the supply of breeding animals of improved breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Gradual and severe loss of "local" genetic resources.

Future needs

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: No | Policy: Under development

Details of the measure(s)

The implementation of an Animal Information System at the national level will lead to systematic tagging of the cattle, goat and sheep in the country.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The monitoring of evolution of the livestock population will be made easier including the local breeds.

Future needs

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation: No | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The use of artificial insemination for cattle is a well established practice whereas work is being initiated for its use on pigs and goats.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Crossing of local animals with exotic breeds for better production leading to gradual disappearance of the "pure" local breed. This has been a major factor in the reduction in the number of Creole animals.

Future needs

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation: Yes | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

The modification of animals used for food and agriculture and in general is regulated by the Genetically Modified Organisms Act of 2004 (http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/G/Page%201/GENETICALLYMODIFIEDORGANISMS1.pdf)

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: No | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Conservation of Farm Animal Genetic Resources project has been accepted as part of the Government programme, particularly for cattle.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

More resources and stakeholders need to be involved in the project.
Setting up of an in-vitro conservation component.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

A breeding nucleus of Creole cattle has been set up as part of the Conservation programme.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The breeding of Creole animals can receive more attention when it comes to expansion of the herd at the government farm.

Future needs

The possibility of extending the conservation programme for other species needs to be studied.

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation: No | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The absence of cryoconservation policy especially for the endangered breeds increases the risk of extinction for these breeds.

Future needs

A policy to cryoconserve either locally or in collaboration with regional/international institutions germplasm of endangered local livestock breeds.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Work is being done at **institutional** level to gather more information on the local animals so as to be able to identify and put forward any comparative advantages of the local animals or their crosses with respect to the other breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Collaboration with international institutions with respect to molecular characterisation of the local breeds.

11. Patenting

Legislation: No

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)

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: No | Policy: Yes

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

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture: No | Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

A Memorandum of Agreement for the supply of biological material by the Government of Mauritius is in place. This agreement

is in accord with the CBD and specifies that the property remains with Mauritius and that use is for non-commercial purposes only. (Ref: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mu/mu-nbsap-01-en.pdf)

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: No Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation: No Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation: No Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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: Under development | Policy: Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Regulations are being worked upon for the classification of **poultry products** as to their system of production.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Same should be extended to other livestock species for better control on the labels being used for marketing purposes.

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)

The dealing of any meat products is subjected to the Meat Act, (http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/M/Page%207/MEAT1.pdf) whereas for milk products it falls under the Food Act 1998. http://health.gov.mu/English/Documents/foodact.doc.
According to the same Food Act 1998, all food items derived from or containing ingredients from genetically modified organisms must be clearly labelled to indicate so.

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: No | Policy: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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 of 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	Yes	Policy	Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The control of animals diseases is regulated by the Veterinary Services and Duties Act 2000 (http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/V/VETERINARYSERVICESDUTIESPOWERS1.pdf.)

Animal Diseases Act 1925(Amended in 1984) provides for the safe import of any live animal, carcass,egg,meat,meal, bone meal,fodder,litter,fresh or untanned hide, manure or other fertiliser of animal origin from any country or place which are likely to be a means of introducing any animal disease from such country or place into Mauritius.

It is also the policy of the Government to provide free veterinary services to small livestock farmers.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Regulates or prevents entry of any infectious agent through live animals, or other reproductive means (germplasm).

Future needs

To strengthen and review regulatory framework for preserving and disseminating any indigenous genetic resources.

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	Under development	Policy	Under development

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Identification and Control of Movement Bill, prepared under the Food Security Scheme/ Project provides for safeguard against abuse in slaughtering of protected species/animals.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Safeguard against depletion of scarce genetic resources.

Future needs

Strengthen and consolidate the legal framework for conservation of genetic resources.

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

Legislation	Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legislation is in place to govern sanitary aspects of AnGR, including quarantine measures. Entry of all genetic resources

(imported) in the country is subject to control by the Veterinary Services (Quarantine Act, 1954). http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/Q/QUARANTINE1.pdf.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation: No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Identification and Control of Movement Bill, prepared under the Food Security Scheme/ Project provides for safeguard against abuse in slaughtering of protected species/animals.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Safeguard against depletion of scarce genetic resources, as a consequence of illegal slaughter, or forceful depletion of stock.

Future needs

Strengthen the legal provision for implementation purposes.

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

Legislation: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Diseases (Swine Fever) Regulations 1958 provides for prohibition of movement of any live pig, pig carcasses,or any pig products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Risk of easy and rapid transmission of infective materials detrimental to conservation of genetic resources.

Future needs

Consolidate and upgrade legal framework related to husbandry practices.

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation: Yes

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?

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Diseases (Swine Fever) Regulations 1958 ,as amended under GN No.189 of 1968, provides for compulsory slaughter of at-risk animals but at the discretion of the Chief Agricultural Officer to protect at-risk genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Cannot be foreseen and subject to species concerned.

Future needs

Legal provision to be reviewed.

2. Animal welfare

Legislation: Yes Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Welfare Act (No 19 of 2013) has, as objectives, to
(a) promote the welfare and good treatment of animals,
(b) protect animals from distress, pain or suffering;
(c) regulate dog keeping, dog breeding and the importation of certain types of dangerous dogs; and
(d) establish the Mauritius Society for Animal Welfare. In short, it makes better provision for the welfare and protection of animals.

Prior to the new law, legislation and policy related to ethical concerns regarding the use and welfare of animals was under the Prevention of Cruelty to animals Act, 1982.
http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/P/Page%204/PREVENTIONCRUELTYANIMALS1.pdf

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Consolidates the management of animal genetic resources.

Future needs

Implementation needs to be strengthened.

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, polices 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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Livestock activities are to be confined to zones classified as Agricultural and the location of farms must respect a minimum distance from water bodies for permits to be obtained when rearing animals.
http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/E/Page%202/ENVIRONMENTPROTECTION1.pdf

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: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

X reference Section 1, question 4.
Reference is made in the NBSAP and the National Report of CBD (http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mu/mu-nbsap-01-en.pdf and http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mu/mu-nr-04-en.pdf) to the farm animal genetic resources of Mauritius but there is no guideline on the framework for managing the biodiversity.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

X reference to answer for Question 1.
Location of farms with respect to minimum distance from water bodies must be taken into consideration for permits to be obtained when rearing animals.
http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/E/Page%202/ENVIRONMENTPROTECTION1.pdf

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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: No | Policy: Yes

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: No | Policy: No

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: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

There is a present policy aiming at increasing the self-sufficiency ratio for certain commodities through the provision of imported animals with better production potential as well as infrastructure and equipments.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Exotic animals with higher production potential are being favoured at the expense of local animals and their crosses.

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The availability of State lands on lease is subject to government policy. The majority of leased land is meant for deer ranching with a very small proportion devoted to the other livestock species mostly under intensive system.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

More land needs to be made available for livestock species other than deer.

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)

Cross reference questions 1 and 3.

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The grouping of farmers in cooperatives falls under the Cooperatives Act http://attorneygeneral.gov.mu/English/Documents/A-Z%20Acts/C/Page%204/COOPERATIVES1.pdf but it applies to any type of activity (including livestock) and not to the livestock in particular.

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)

Representatives of livestock keepers participate in inter-ministerial stakeholder's meeting.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation: No | Policy: No

If instruments are 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 | Policy

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