



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

Country: Namibia

### 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  Yes

Policy  No

Details of the measure(s)

Livestock Improvement Act, 25 of 1977, amended 1993

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Provide for the Development and Improvement of Livestock, through breeding, identification and utilization of genetically superior animals, control import and export of genetic material through permit system.

Future needs

Development of genetic engineering centres and trade protocols to facilitate trade with genetic material.

#### 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  No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

#### 4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Section 2 of the Livestock Improvement Act provide for the recognition of kind and breeds of animals, declared by the Minister.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Harmonize selection standards.

#### 5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

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

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

The Stock Brand Act 24, 1995. Animal Health Act 1, 2011. Animal identification and traceability. The Act provides for the establishment of registering authority that will capture data and information of all stud animals.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Identification and tracing animal movements enable capturing and storing data on the Namibian system.

Future needs

##### 5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Livestock Improvement Act, No. 25 of 1977 amended in 1993. Swakara Act. The registration of breeds and breeders associations/societies. Namibian Stud Breeders Association (NSBA) is the registration authority. Breeds like the Drakensberger, Simbra, Simmentaler and Bonsmara can register with either South Africa or the NSBA. There are organized stud breeders associations in the country with their agreed standards.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Organized breeding programmes for pure breeds & studs.

Future needs

## 6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Section 3 of Livestock Improvement Act, No. 25 of 1977 amended in 1993.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National Agricultural Policy is currently under review.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ban of GMO's.

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)

Livestock Improvement Act, No. 25 of 1977 amended in 1993. Animal Health Act, 2011. Regulate the import of genetic materials.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Improve genetic material within the country; better genetic quality.

Future needs

Development of a policy.

## 9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The 6:1 or 5:1 rule as per Cabinet Decision. Incorporated in the annual plan of the Directorate Research and Training, Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Controlled export and import of genetic material.

Future needs

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

### 9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

No

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Semen and embryo collection & freezing.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

Development of the policy.

## 10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 11. Patenting

Legislation

No

**If legislation is in 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

No

**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)

Namibian Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy, 2011. 5:1 rule as per cabinet decision. Discouraging the export of raw materials and live animals as well as utilizing infant industry protection measures available under regional trade agreements to nurture new industries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Increased share of locally originating animal products limiting exposure to the risks of external market shocks and ensuring a sustainable demand for local genetic material.

Future needs

Develop domestic livestock and livestock products markets through among others promotion of local consumption of locally originating meat and meat products.

### 2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Namibian Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy, 2011. Improving marketing conditions of the North of Veterinary Cordon Fence (in order to bring them on par with those in the FMD free zone) through availing of quality breeding material extension services to improve the genetic pool.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Improvement of livestock management in order to produce well adapted animals.

Future needs

More marketing of well-adapted and good performing animals.

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

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Namibian Agriculture Marketing and Trade Policy and Strategy, 2011. Utilize policy space to preserve breeding material and discourage uncontrolled exports of livestock and unrestricted export of breeding materials.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Local animal genetic material preserved.

Future needs

Promoting the quality of livestock, meat and agro-industrial produce through backward and forward linkages in the meat industry.

**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

No

Details of the measure(s)

Labelling Act (Ministry of Health) under review; Also the FAN MEAT Scheme.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animals reared with good animal welfare standards.

Future needs

**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)

National Agricultural Policy under review; proposed ban on importation & production of GMO's.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Breeding of livestock in natural environment.

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

No

Details of the measure(s)

Animal Health Act, 2011. Animal Identification and traceability regulations of 2009. Provides the prevention, detection and control of animal disease; to provide for the maintenance and improvement of animal health, and to provide for incidental matters.

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 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)

Animal Health Act, No.1, 2011.; Eradication of Trans-boundary animal diseases policy.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Control of production & reproduction diseases and disorders.

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)

Stock Brand Act, No. 24 of 1995. Animal Identification and Traceability regulations of 2009. Animal Health Act1, 2011.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

All cattle be tagged before 6 month of age or younger; sheep/goats be tagged before 3 months of age.

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)

Permit system in place, approved by the Registrar of Livestock Improvement. Also the Animal Health Act, No.1 of 2011; import and inspection control.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

To ensure that poor quality genetic material are not imported in to Namibia.

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)

Control through permit system, registering authority recommend export live breeding animals/ genetic material. Animal Health Act 1, 2011 and the 5in 1 rule as per cabinet decision.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ensure that best quality animals are exported, in a controlled way without depleting our genetic materials.

Future needs

**1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies**

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Livestock Improvement Act, No 25 of 1977, amended in 1993. Assess for Artificial Insemination and semen.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Regulation of inseminators & centers.

Future needs

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

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Animal Health Act, No.1, 2011. Regulations of 2009. Permit system with movement notices of individual identification of cattle and group identification of small stock.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Identification and tracing of all registered livestock; improvement of animal disease management.

Future needs

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

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The Medicine and Related Substance Control Act, No. 13 of 2003 and The Prevention of Undesirable residues in Meat Act, No. 21 of 1991. Prohibited use of growth hormones, control of residues, eg. antibiotics in animals for slaughter, stick to withdrawal period.

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)

Animal Health Act, No.1, 2011. Mass culling in certain diseases such as Foot & Mouth (FMD) if found in the free zone.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Disease surveillance, preparedness & response to specific disease of economic and public health importance.

Future needs

## 2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Under development

Policy

Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Animal Welfare Act of 1962; FAN MEAT Scheme; private and standards of operators; traded partners standard.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Raising animals in well controlled environments with good welfare standards.

Future needs

Include animal welfare standards in school curriculum; complement and implementation of new Animal Welfare Act.

## 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

No

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

National Agricultural Policy which is currently under review.

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)

National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy which focus on conservation and sustainable use of land.

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  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National Rangeland Management Policy and Strategy which focus on conservation and sustainable use of land.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

If one sustain grassland, one can sustain herds which could then result into genetic improvement.

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  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)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Rangeland policy and strategy.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

## 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  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Land Use Plan. Registration of every holding where animals are kept. Commercial Land Reform Act and Resettlement Policy.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Registration of livestock holdings ensure controlled management of livestock.

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  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

FAN MEAT Scheme. SPCA control the prevention of cruelty to animals.

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  Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Stakeholder consultations is extensive.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Participation of stakeholders in decision making.

Future needs

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

Legislation  Policy

**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