منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة | 联合国粮食及农业组织 | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations | Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture | Продовольственная и сельскохозяйственная организация Объединенных Наций | Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

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

Country: Switzerland

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: Under development

Details of the measure(s)

Breeding organizations (BOs) take care of management and breeding strategies for FAnGR. Government develops NPA.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

FAnGR registered in BOs are well managed and NPA ensures long term conservation and development.

Future needs

FAnGR registered in BOs should increase, action in this respect should be defined.

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

PGRFA and FAnGR are integrated in agricultural policies, Forest and Aquatic in environmental policies.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

All are taken care of in order not to loose them.

Future needs

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Survey and monitoring is done by farm animal tracing database, EFABIS and through herdbook data in BOs.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Time for reaction is given, no breeds should therefore be lost.

Future needs

A detailed monitoring program including geographical and social data is planned.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Compulsory recognition of BOs with their breeds according to livestock breeding ordinance in accordance with EU regulations.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ensures long term breeding and conservation according to international rules.

Future needs

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

BOs are responsible for breeding strategies and genetic improvement of breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Optimal continuous improvement of breeds in terms of economics.

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: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Farmers are obliged by law and BO policies to identify FAns, if they are part of a BO, all data regarding their animals (ancestry and production) is recorded in order to calculate genetic values.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ancestry is known, data is recorded, breeding values are calculated to improve breeds.

Future needs

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Farmers create BOs and Fed. Office for Agriculture recognizes them if they fulfill requirements according to ordinance.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

FAn are taken care of in the sense of correct breeding and breeding aims.

Future needs

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

BOs and AI centres use different techniques in animal breeding (AI, ET, semen sexing) according to their guidelines (but no cloning or DNA manipulation). Estrus synchronisation is also practised on farms.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Breeding goals are attained faster. The use of imported semen or embryos can enlarge breed genetic base but it can also narrow it (case of Holstein).

Future needs

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Prohibited (moratorium), some research projects investigate risks and benefits of GMOs.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

So far it is concluded that it does not bring any benefit to farmers and therefore to their animals.

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)

No previous assessment must be done.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Farmers are free in their choices.

Future needs

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Conservation programs are undertaken through projects submitted by BOs and must be approved by Fed. Office for Agriculture in order to be cofinanced.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Increase population size, decrease inbreeding, encourage marketing measures for products of rare breeds.

Future needs

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Projects for in vivo conservation of FAnGR are solicited by BO and NGOs and co-financed by Government.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ensures conservation and sustainable use.

Future needs

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

National Genepoos (according to NPA) for cattle, horses, pigs and goats have been set up.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Genepools ensure long term conservation, reintroduction of rare genes and research in genomics.

Future needs

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation: No | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Research for different purposes related to AnGR (management) is done frequently in Universities.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Breed improvement, knowledge gain.

Future needs

11. Patenting

Legislation: Yes

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

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture: Yes | Living organisms in general: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Patenting of breeds as well as of biologic breeding methods is not allowed, patenting of microbiological procedures and their products is possible.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Respect is given to safety of breeds and genetic diversity, privilege of farmers and breeders is respected, benefit sharing is respected, fundamental research can be done.

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: Under development | Policy: Under development

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

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture: Yes | Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general:

Details of the measure(s)

Federal Council will regulate ABS for GRFA (animals and plants) (Nagoya Protocol).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Exchange will be guaranteed based on international obligations.

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: Yes Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Regulation of procedures for processing of products from FAns and for indications of animal production systems on the packages.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Products of any rare breed can be processed (breed-specific products) respecting food safety, indications of the breed used can be made and have a positive impact on promoting rare breeds.

Future needs

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation: Yes Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Regulations on indications of organic farming include FAns (equivalent to EU legislation), regulate number of animals, management, feeding, use of manure, breeding techniques, health criterion.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Favours slow growing breeds, no specific impact on local breeds.

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Equivalent to EU PDG/PGI schemes, regulates registration of breed names for the product (indication of origin).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

No specific impact on local breeds

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Designation of poultry meat with regard to production standards (EU equivalent).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Positive impact on slower growing breeds.

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)

Regulates all aspects regarding food safety of products of animal origin.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

None.

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)

Regulations of traceability include information on origin of product, on processing and on distribution.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

None.

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)

Done by vets and in accordance with the animal disease (international requirements) and animal welfare regulations. Monitoring and actions to be taken are regulated. Access to AnGR may be restricted because of zoosanitary reasons.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Protection of AnGR in case of diseases, but also loss of AnGR because of diseases.

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Regulates obligation of reporting details regarding identification and movements of animals from birth to death.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Ensures traceability of all FAns and supports implementation of epidemic, animal welfare and agriculture regulations. It and therefore supports breeding of FAns.

Future needs

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)

Imported genetic resources must fulfill international zoosanitary requirements.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Sometimes a special animal can not be imported.

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Exported genetic resources must fulfill international zoosanitary requirements.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Sometimes a special animal can not be exported.

Future needs

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Reproduction technologies must respect zoosanitary rules.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Safe use of reproductive technologies for FAns.

Future needs

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

Legislation Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Technical regulations rule livestock movements.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Should guarantee that only livestock with no zoosanitary problems is moved.

Future needs

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

Legislation Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Regulates closing of farms in case of zoosanitary problems according to emergency plans.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Good for the safety of livestock.

Future needs

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?

No

Details of the measure(s)

Binding conditions under which culling can be done are regulated.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

No difference is made between livestock not at risk or at risk, in case of culling, animals are lost.

Future needs

Emergency plans have to be developed.

2. Animal welfare

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Regulates handling of livestock regarding animal welfare and imposes minimum standards.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Handling of animals is done respectfully.

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, 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)

Land use planning, reduction of impact of agriculture on environment, protection of natural resources, protection of animals, conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources are ruled in order to protect systems in which animals are kept.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Improvement of status of AnGR.

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Biodiversity protected by biodiversity strategy, plant and animal GRFA protected by national action plans.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

AnGR are protected and conserved under best conditions.

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)

Details of protective measures laid down in action plans for climate or in legislation addressing pollution and water use ....

Impact on animal genetic resources management

See question 2.

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: Yes | 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: Yes | Policy: Yes

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Grants are given to support infrastructure and animal production systems.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animals can be kept even if private financial resources are low.

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Private contracts regulating access to alpine pastures for different livestock exist.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animals are more robust if they spend time on alpine pasture.

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: Yes | Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Number of animals kept on farms is limited, all farms must be registered.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Traceability is improved.

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

NGOs are active in conservation measures.

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes Policy: Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Consultation of offices, BOs and civil societies when preparing legislative rules.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

All rules aim at a good and organized development of livestock sector.

Future needs

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

Legislation: Yes Policy: Yes

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: Yes Policy:

Livestock in general

Legislation: Yes Policy:

Details of the measure(s)

Evacuation plans in case of natural or human induced disasters (atomic bombs, chemical weapons).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Protection of valuable livestock as far as possible.

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