



Progress report on the implementation of the *Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources* - 2007 to 2011

Country: **Albania**

Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring of Trends and Associated Risks

- The state of inventory and characterization of animal genetic resources
- The state of monitoring programmes and country-based early warning and response systems
- The state of international technical standards and protocols for characterization, inventory, and monitoring

1. Which of the following options best describes your country's progress in building an inventory of its animal genetic resources covering all livestock species of economic importance (SP 1, Action 1)?

Glossary: An inventory is a complete list of all the different breeds present in a country.

- a. Completed before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Completed after the adoption of the GPA
- c. Partially completed (further progress since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Partially completed (no further progress since the adoption of the GPA)

Please provide further details:

The inventory for most livestock species had been done before the adoption of the GPA. After 2007, two local cattle populations, three local sheep breeds, four local poultry populations, local rabbit and three local pig populations have been identified.

2. Which of the following options best describes your country's progress in implementing phenotypic characterization studies covering morphology, performance, location, production environments and specific features in all livestock species of economic importance (SP 1, Actions 1 and 2)?

- a. Comprehensive studies were undertaken before the adoption of the GPA



- b. Sufficient information has been generated because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Some information has been generated (further progress since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Some information has been generated (no further progress since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. None, but action is planned and funding identified
- g. None, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. None

Please provide further details:

Morphological and phenotypic characterization started before the adoption of the GPA and it is an ongoing process. The human and financial capacities at local and national level are limited.

3. Which of the following options best describes your country's progress in molecular characterization of its animal genetic resources covering all livestock species of economic importance (SP 1)?

- a. Comprehensive studies were undertaken before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Sufficient information has been generated because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Some information has been generated (further progress since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Some information has been generated (no further progress since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. None, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. None, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. None

Please provide further details:

Studies on molecular characterization are done only in the framework of international collaboration. The main achievements after 2007: **Cattle** - Albanian Prespa cattle, 46 samples; **Sheep** - "Ruda" breed, 135 samples; "Bardhoke" breed, 210 samples; "Recka" local sheep breed, 86 samples; "Shkodrane" - breed, 65 samples; **Poultry** - one local population, 50 samples; **Pigs** - three local breeds, 30 samples. Two years ago a comprehensive laboratory was established at the Agriculture University. Work has started on some separate molecular characterization studies of some local breeds of small ruminants and fish species.

4. Has your country conducted a baseline survey of the population status of its animal genetic resources for all livestock species of economic importance (SP 1, Action 1)?

Glossary: A baseline provides a reference point for monitoring population trends. Population status refers to the total size of a national breed population (ideally, also the proportion that is actively used for breeding and the number of male and female breeding animals).

- a. Yes, a baseline survey was undertaken before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, a baseline survey has been undertaken or has commenced after the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, a baseline survey has been undertaken for some species (coverage increased since the adoption of the GPA)

- d. Yes, a baseline survey has been undertaken for some species (coverage not increased since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

Please provide further details:

The survey of population status is being developed only for species at risk of extinction. Local structures of the National Farm Animal Genetic Resources Network are responsible for performing this work.

5. Have institutional responsibilities for monitoring the status of animal genetic resources in your country been established (SP 1, Action 3)?

Glossary: Monitoring is a systematic set of activities undertaken to document changes in the population size and structure of animal genetic resources over time.

- a. Yes, responsibilities established before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, responsibilities established after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

Please provide further details:

The National Network for Farm Animal Genetic Resources, one of the most important outputs of the project TCP/ALB/3001(A) FAO, is the responsible institution for monitoring the status of animal genetic resources in Albania.

6. Have protocols (details of schedules, objectives and methods) been established for a programme to monitor the status of animal genetic resources in your country (SP 2)?

- a. Yes, protocols established before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, protocols established after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

Please provide further details:

The protocols that are implemented in Albania provide data on the population size, effective population size, number and size of farms, and geographical distribution of local breeds. At the end of each year a technical report is compiled.

7. Are the population status and trends of your country's animal genetic resources being monitored regularly for all livestock species of economic importance (SP 1, Action 2)?

- a. Yes, regular monitoring commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, regular monitoring commenced after the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, regular monitoring is being undertaken for some species (coverage increased since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, regular monitoring is being undertaken for some species (coverage not increased since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

Please provide further details:

Only breeds declared at risk of extinction are monitored regularly.

8. Which criteria do your country use for assessing the risk status of its animal genetic resources (SP 1, Action 7)

Glossary: FAO has developed criteria that it uses to allocate breeds to risk-status categories based on the size and structure of their populations (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/a1250e/a1250e00.htm>).

- a. FAO criteria
- b. National criteria that differ from the FAO criteria
- c. Other criteria (e.g. defined by international body such as European Union)
- d. None

If applicable, please describe your national criteria or provide link to website describing criteria of international body:

If the criteria is the "effective population size" for estimating the level of risk of extinction:

Effective population size	Endangerment class
> 1000	no threat
400 -1000	vulnerable
100 - 400	endangered
50 -100, <5 not related males	critical
< 50	uncertain

If the criteria is "the number of breeding females" estimation of the level of "risk of extinction":

Level of the risk	Cattle	Equines	Sheep & goats	Pigs	Rabbits	Poultry
1. Critical	<150	<300	<300	<100	<100	<100
2. Endangered	250	500	500	200	250	250
3. Vulnerable	450	900	900	300	500	500
4. At risk	750	1500	1500	500	1000	1000
5. Not endangered	1500	3000	3000	1000	2500	2500

9. Has your country established an operational emergency response system (<http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/021/K3812e.pdf>) that provides for immediate action to safeguard breeds at risk in all important livestock species (SP 1, Action 7)?

- a. Yes, a comprehensive system was established before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, a comprehensive system has been established since the adoption of the GPA

- c. For some species and breeds (coverage expanded since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. For some species and breeds (coverage not expanded since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

Please provide further details:

10. Is your country conducting research to develop methods, technical standards or protocols for phenotypic or molecular characterization, or breed evaluation, valuation or comparison? (SP 2, Action 2)

- a. Yes, research commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, research commenced after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

Please provide further details:

11. Has your country identified the major barriers and obstacles to enhancing its inventory, characterization and monitoring programmes?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No major barriers and obstacles exist. Comprehensive inventory, characterization and monitoring programmes are in place.

If yes, please list them, being as specific as possible:

Lack of financial means and sufficient human resources. The funding of programmes for the identification and characterization of local populations of animals is very small. Insufficient funding for the scientific research work of academic institutions and especially for the Agriculture University whose main objective in this field is phenotypic characterization of local populations of animals. There are neither public nor private facilities nor farmers' groups or associations that can be used for phenotypic characterization or for implementing monitoring programmes. The level of public awareness is insufficient, in general and among the farming community in particular, concerning the values of the autochthonous genetic pool in farm animals. Low level of economic development. Lack of knowledge and lack of the necessary infrastructure for inventory, characterization and monitoring programmes.

12. If applicable, please list the priority measures that need to be taken to address these barriers and obstacles and to enhance your country's inventory, characterization and monitoring programmes - please be as specific as possible:

We are trying to use other programmes operating in agriculture and rural development to overcome some of these obstacles

and to enhance our country inventory and characterization programmes of animal genetic resources.

13. Please provide further comments on your country's activities related to Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks (including regional and international cooperation):

Albanian representatives have participated in various international workshops intended to improve capacities in order to better perform the country's inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks. In the framework of the European Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (ERFP) project, we have shared and exchanged experiences with other Balkan countries.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

- The state of national sustainable use policies for animal genetic resources
- The state of national species and breed development strategies and programmes
- The state of efforts to promote agro-ecosystem approaches

14. Does your country have adequate national policies in place to promote the sustainable use of animal genetic resources (see also questions 46 and 54)?

- a. Yes, since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, policies put in place or updated after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

Please provide the text of the policies or a web link to the document:

After the GPA adoption, we are updating our national policies.

15. Do these policies address the integration of agro-ecosystem approaches into the management of animal genetic resources in your country (SP5) (see also questions 46 and 54)?

Glossary: The ecosystem approach is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way (for further information see <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/description.shtml>).

- a. Yes
- b. No, but a policy update is planned and funding identified
- c. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- d. No

Please provide further details:

This work will be done in the framework of Agricultural and Food Sector Strategy, 2007-2013, Rural Development Strategy

16. Are breed development programmes revised, for all major species and breeds in your country, with the aim of meeting foreseeable economic and social needs and market demands (SP4, Action 2)?

- a. Yes, regular revisions commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, regular revisions commenced after the adoption of the GPA
- c. For some species and breeds (coverage has increased since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. For some species and breeds (coverage has not increased since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

Please provide further information:

The revitalization of traditional processing methods and traditional products to add value to local breeds are among the main actions taken in the framework of rural development. In addition, this has been done through changes in breeding programmes for local breeds.

17. Is long-term sustainable use planning - including, if appropriate, strategic breeding programmes - in place for all major livestock species and breeds (SP4, Action 1)?

- a. Yes, since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, put in place after the adoption of the GPA
- c. For some species and breeds (further progress made since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. For some species and breeds (no further progress made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

18. Have the major barriers and obstacles to enhancing the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources in your country been identified?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No major barriers and obstacles exist. Comprehensive sustainable use and development measures are in place.

If yes, what are they?

The lack of farmer organization in breeding associations. Lack of a complete animal identification system (matriculation). Lack of financial support and adaptable local markets.

19. Have the long-term impacts of the use of exotic breeds on local breeds (e.g. economic, environmental or genetic impacts) and on food security been assessed in your country (SP4, Action 1)?

Glossary: Exotic breeds are breeds that are maintained in a different area from the one in which they were developed. Exotic breeds comprise both recently introduced breeds and continually imported breeds.

- a. No exotic breeds are being used for agricultural production
- b. Yes, assessments were introduced before the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, assessments were introduced after the adoption of the GPA
- d. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- e. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. No

Please provide further information:

The long process of importation of animals of exotic breeds and their use in grading-up crosses with local breeds have resulted in the fact that local cattle and local pig breeds almost disappeared, and only some isolated populations in remote mountain areas can still be found. All sheep populations in lowland and hilly areas are crossed with exotic breeds (mainly with Merinos, Tsigaja and Ile de France). Local small ruminants breeds are located in mountain areas. The economic impact of this process has been positive because of the higher yield of the animals. The environmental impact is not identified yet.

20. Have recording systems and organizational structures for breeding programmes been established or strengthened (SP4, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, sufficient recording systems and organizational structures for breeding programmes have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, sufficient recording systems and organizational structures for breeding programmes exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, recording systems and organizational structures for breeding programmes are partially in place (and were established or strengthened after the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, recording systems and organizational structures for breeding programmes are partially in place (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

21. Are mechanisms in place in your country to facilitate interactions among stakeholders, scientific disciplines and sectors as part of sustainable use development planning (SP5, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, comprehensive mechanisms have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, comprehensive mechanisms exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, mechanisms are partially in place (and were established or strengthened after the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, mechanisms are partially in place (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified

- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

22. Have measures been implemented in your country to provide farmers and livestock keepers with information that facilitates their access to animal genetic resources (SP 4, Action 7)?

- a. Yes, comprehensive measures have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, comprehensive measures exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, measures partially implemented (and were established or strengthened after the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, measures partially implemented (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

23. Has your country developed agreements for equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from access to, and use and development of, animal genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge (SP3, Action 2)?

- a. Yes, sufficient agreements have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, sufficient agreements exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, some agreements exist (progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, some agreements exist (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

Please provide further information:

24. Have training and technical support programmes for the breeding activities of livestock-keeping communities been established or strengthened in your country (SP 4, Action 1)?

- a. Yes, sufficient programmes have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, sufficient programmes exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, some programmes exist (progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, some programmes exist (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought

g. No

25. Have priorities for future technical training and support programmes to enhance the use and development of animal genetic resources in your country been identified (SP 4, paragraph 42)?

- a. Yes, priorities have been identified or updated since the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, priorities were identified before the adaption of the GPA but have not been updated
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

26. Have efforts been made in your country to assess and support indigenous or local production systems and associated traditional knowledge and practices related to animal genetic resources (SP 6, Action 1, 2)?

- a. Yes, sufficient measures have been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, sufficient measures are in place because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, some measures are in place (and were established or strengthened after the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, some measures are in place (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

27. Have efforts been made in your country to promote products derived from indigenous and local species and breeds, and facilitate access to markets (SP 6, Action 2, 4)?

- a. Yes, sufficient measures have been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, sufficient measures are in place because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, some measures are in place (and were established or strengthened after the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, some measures are in place (but no progress has been made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

28. If applicable, please list priority requirements for enhancing the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources in your country - please be as specific as possible:

Support for farmers' cooperation to increase their presence in the local market with traditional products. Support for development of agrottraditional farm systems and revitalization of traditional food processing methods. Increasing awareness-raising activities, organizing national and local fairs where local animal breeds and their products are demonstrated.

29. Please provide further comments on your country's activities related to Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development (including regional and international cooperation):

Training activities, workshops, field days with different levels of stakeholders, seminars and scientific symposiums are always organized in Albania to improve capacities for sustainable use of animal genetic resources. Participation of Albanian representatives (scientists, farmers, technician) in different international, regional and cross-border events: scientific meetings, workshops, regional livestock fairs, etc. Collaboration with neighbouring countries in the framework of cross-border and regional projects.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

- The state of national conservation policies
- The state of *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation programmes
- The state of regional and global long-term conservation strategies and agreement on technical standards for conservation

30. Does your country regularly assess factors leading to the erosion of its animal genetic resources (SP 7, Action 2)?

- a. Erosion not occurring
- b. Yes, regular assessments have been implemented since before the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, regular assessments have commenced since the adoption of the GPA
- d. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- e. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. No

31. What factors or drivers are leading to the erosion of animal genetic resources? Please describe the factors specifying which breeds or species are affected:

The first and most important factor leading to genetic erosion is the economic factor. Second, lack of well-organized local markets. Unfair competition for local products from imported ones. Migration of the rural population towards urban areas, especially young people. Insufficient subsidies for farmers to breed local breeds and for agro-tourism development. Lack of appropriate implementation of breeding programmes. Lack of appropriate publicity on natural resources, animals and rural landscapes from local and national tourist agencies.

32. Does your country have conservation policies and programmes in place to protect breeds at risk in all important livestock species (SP 7, SP 8 and SP 9)?

- a. Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes have been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, comprehensive policies and programmes exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. For some species and breeds (coverage expanded since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. For some species and breeds (coverage not expanded since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified

f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought

g. No

33. If conservation policies and programmes are in place, are they regularly evaluated or reviewed (SP 7, Action 1; SP 8, Action 1; and SP 9, Action 1)?

a. Yes

b. No, but action is planned and funding identified

c. No, but action is planned and funding is sought

d. No

34. What measures are being used in your country to conserve breeds at risk of extinction and to prevent breeds from becoming at risk (SP 8 and SP 9)?

In situ

Glossary: In situ - support for continued use by livestock keepers in the production system in which the livestock evolved or are now normally found and bred.

a. Yes

b. No, but action is planned and funding identified

c. No, but action is planned and funding is sought

d. No

Please describe the measures (indicating for each whether they were introduced before or after the adoption of the GPA) or provide a web link to a published document that provides further information:

<http://www.akad.edu.al/simpoziume/>
<http://www.agrobiodiversity.net/balkan/>
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Europe/documents/Events_2010/Announcement_en.pdf
<http://www.fao.org/europe/meetings-and-events/angr-wageningen/en/>

Ex situ in vivo

Glossary: Ex situ in vivo - maintenance of live animal populations not kept under their normal management conditions - e.g. in zoological parks or governmental farms - and/or outside the area in which they evolved or are now normally found.

e. Yes

f. No, but action is planned and funding identified

g. No, but action is planned and funding is sought

h. No

Please describe the measures (indicating for each whether they were introduced before or after the adoption of the GPA) or provide a web link to a published document that provides further information:

The work to establish the National Genetic Bank for *ex situ in vivo* conservation as a public institution started after the adoption of the GPA. The first two local sheep breeds (Shkodrane and Lara e Polisit sheep breeds) have been placed in the gene bank. Next spring, local Albanian Prespa cattle will be placed in the gene bank.

Ex situ in vitro

Glossary: Ex situ in vitro - conservation, under cryogenic conditions including, inter alia, the cryoconservation of embryos, semen, oocytes, somatic cells or tissues having the potential to reconstitute live animals at a later date.

- i. Yes
- j. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- k. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- l. No

Please describe the measures (indicating for each whether they were introduced before or after the adoption of the GPA) or provide a web link to a published document that provides further information:

There are sufficient laboratory capacities to implement an *ex situ* cryobank for semen and somatic cells. Some semen from exotic cattle breeds are stored. The establishment of a Somatic Cells Gene Bank is planned and the required funds have been identified.

35. If your country has not established any conservation programmes, is this a future priority?

- a. Yes
- b. No

36. Has your country identified the major barriers and obstacles to enhancing the conservation of its animal genetic resources?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. No major barriers and obstacles exist. Comprehensive conservation programmes are in place

If yes, please list them, being as specific as possible:

37. If your country has existing *ex situ* collections of animal genetic resources, are there major gaps in these collections (SP 9, Action 5)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, have priorities for filling the gaps been established?

- c. Yes
- d. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- e. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. No

38. Are arrangements in place in your country to protect breeds and populations that are at risk from natural or human-induced disasters (SPA 3)?

- a. Yes, arrangements have been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, arrangements put in place after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

39. Are arrangements in place in your country for extraction and use of conserved genetic material following loss of animal genetic resources (e.g. through disasters), including arrangements to enable restocking (SP 9, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, arrangements have been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, arrangements put in place after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

40. Is your country conducting research to adapt existing, or develop new, methods and technologies for *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of animal genetic resources (SP 11, Action 1)?

- a. Yes, research commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, research commenced since the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

If yes, briefly describe the research:

Existing methods are going to be adapted for *in situ* and *ex situ in vivo* conservation of local breeds at risk.

41. Does your country implement programmes to promote documentation and dissemination of knowledge, technologies and best practices for conservation (SP 11, Action 2)?

- a. Yes, programmes commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, programmes commenced since the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

**42. What are your country's priority requirements for enhancing conservation measures for animal genetic resources?
Please list them, being as specific as possible:**

Development of necessary infrastructures and tools for implementation of the Genetic Improvement Programme and *in situ* conservation programmes and sustainable use of animal genetic resources.

Providing public funds and obtaining funds from different national and international donors for implementing *in situ* conservation programmes.

Capacity building among farmers to support *in situ* conservation and use of animal genetic resources.

Building professional and technical capacities among key stakeholders. Increasing public awareness, in general and of the farming community in particular, concerning the values of the autochthonous genetic pool in farm animals.

**43. Please provide further comments describing your country's activities related to Strategic Priority Area 3:
Conservation (including regional and international cooperation):**

After 2007, several national projects for *in situ* conservation programmes have been implemented: two for local cattle breeds, one for pigs and one for goats. Three national symposiums were held in Albania and two regional workshops. The projects on Prespa cattle and local pig *in situ* conservation are being implemented with international partners.

To strengthen the capacity building of the national network for conservation of animal genetic resources four regional training workshops for 36 field technicians were held. During this period 20 training workshops were held at local level to train 430 stakeholders in 36 districts.

Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

- The state of national institutions for planning and implementing animal genetic resources measures
- The state of information sharing
- The state of educational and research facilities capacity for characterization, inventory, and monitoring, sustainable use, development, and conservation
- The state of awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources
- The state of policies and legal frameworks for animal genetic resources

44. Has your country assessed its national institutional capacity to support holistic planning of the livestock sector since the adoption of the GPA (SP 12, Action1)?

- a. Yes, sufficient capacity has been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, sufficient capacity is in place because of progress made after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

45. Have tools been developed for national planners to use in shaping the future development of the livestock sector in accordance with national priorities, including in relation to the deployment of animal genetic resources (SP 12, Action 4)?

- a. Yes, the development of tools commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, the development of tools commenced after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

If yes, please describe the tools:

The Agriculture and Food Sector Strategy and the Rural Development Crosscutting Strategy (2002-2013) set out the main priorities for livestock development. According to the National Plan of Action of these strategies, the tools to support livestock development are: public funds to support animal production development; technical support to transfer new breeding and processing technologies; establishing the market information system and promoting niche markets; improving the training system for farmers; improving the financial system for farmers; developing methods to add value to livestock products; and awareness-raising campaigns.

46. What is the current status of your country's national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources (SP 20)?

Glossary: National strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources: a strategy and plan, agreed by stakeholders and preferably government-endorsed, that translates the internationally agreed Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources into national actions, with the aim of ensuring a strategic and comprehensive approach to the sustainable use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture.

- a. Previously endorsed national strategy and action plan is being updated (or new version has been endorsed)
- b. Completed and government-endorsed
- c. Completed and agreed by stakeholders
- d. In preparation
- e. Preparation is planned and funding identified
- f. Future priority activity
- g. Not planned

Please provide a copy of your country's national strategy and action plan as a separate document or a web link to the document:

http://

47. Are animal genetic resources addressed in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (<http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>)?

- a. Yes
- b. No, but they will be addressed in forthcoming plan
- c. No

48. Has your country established or strengthened a national database for animal genetic resources (SP 15, Action 4)?

- a. Yes, a national database has been in place since before the adoption of the GPA

- b. Yes, a national database is in place because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, a national database is in place but still requires strengthening (progress since adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, a national database is in place but still requires strengthening (no progress since adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

49. Have your country's national data on animal genetic resources been regularly updated in DAD-IS?

Note that the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has requested FAO to produce global status and trends reports every two years.

- a. Yes, regular updates have been occurring since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, regular updates started after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but it is a future priority
- d. No

50. Has your country established a National Advisory Committee for Animal Genetic Resources (SP 12, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, established before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, established after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

If yes, list its main functions:

- Organizing data collection by the national network for animal genetic resources.
- Monitoring data on local breeds.
- Publishing the red book.
- Making information available to the public through presentations and publications on local breeds.
- Organizing national and international activities related to animal genetic resources.

51. Is there strong coordination and interaction between the National Focal Point and stakeholders involved with animal genetic resources, such as the breeding industry, livestock keepers, government agencies, research institutes and civil society organizations (SP 12, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, strong coordination has been in place since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, strong coordination was established after the adoption of the GPA

- c. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

52. Does the National Focal Point undertake activities to increase public awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources (SP 18)?

- a. Yes, activities commenced before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, activities commenced after the adoption of the GPA
- c. No, but activities are planned and funding identified
- d. No, but activities are planned and funding is sought
- e. No

If yes, briefly describe them:

Coordinates and supports the activities on identification, characterization and conservation of animal genetic resources. Encourages farmers to breed conserve and improve local breeds in their traditional areas. Organizes different activities for training and capacity building among farmers through seminars, workshops, etc. Coordinates the activities of different stakeholders, universities and public services, and local and regional structures of the national network for sustainable use of animal genetic resources.

53. Have national policies and legal frameworks for animal genetic resources been reviewed and appropriate changes made if necessary (SP 20)?

- a. Yes, frameworks were reviewed before the adoption of the GPA and appropriate changes made
- b. Yes, frameworks have been reviewed since the adoption of the GPA and appropriate changes made
- c. Yes, frameworks have been reviewed since the adoption of the GPA, but appropriate changes not yet made
- d. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- e. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. No

54. Have your country's needs for research and education been reviewed in all areas of management of animal genetic resources since the adoption of the GPA (SP 13, Action 1)?

- a. Yes
- b. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- c. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- d. No

If yes, briefly describe them:

55. Have partnerships been established among research, training and extension institutions and networks of researchers, breeders and conservation organizations to support the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (SP 14, Action 2)?

- a. Yes
- b. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- d. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- e. No

56. Have organizations (including where relevant community-based organizations), networks and initiatives for sustainable use, breeding and conservation been established or strengthened (SP 14, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, comprehensive organizations, networks and initiatives have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, comprehensive organizations, networks and initiatives exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, some organizations, networks and initiatives exist (established or strengthened since adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, some organizations, networks and initiatives exist (but no progress made since adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- g. No

57. Are there any national NGOs active in your country in the fields of:

Characterization?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Sustainable use and development?

- c. Yes
- d. No

Conservation of breeds at risk?

- e. Yes
- f. No

If yes, please list the national NGOs and provide links to their web sites:

ALBAGENE - National Association for Conservation, Development and Use of Farm Animal Genetic Resources

58. Has your country established or strengthened research or educational institutions in the field of animal genetic resources management (SP 13, Action 3)?

- a. Yes, adequate research and education institutions have existed since before the adoption of the GPA
- b. Yes, adequate research and education institutions exist because of progress made since the adoption of the GPA
- c. Yes, research and education institutions exist but still require strengthening (progress made since the adoption of the GPA)
- d. Yes, research and education institutions exist but still require strengthening (no progress made since the adoption of the GPA)
- e. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- f. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- d. No

59. Please provide further comments describing specific activities related to Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building (including regional and international cooperation):

Development of the necessary public and private institutions, infrastructures and tools for setting up and sustainable development of an identification system (earmarking and registration) (I&RS) and a productive performance recording system (PPRS).

Training various stakeholders to strengthen capacities needed for developing and implementing standards, protocols and methods for phenotypic and molecular characterization of local animal genetic resources in conformity with international guidelines. Training farmers for implementation of in situ conservation programmes.

Organization and participation in regional activities in the framework of programmes financed by the ERFP or other donors.

Aiming to share experiences in the field of harmonization of legislation with EU regulations and the CBD, strengthening institutional capacities for the development of regional cooperation.

Implementation and financing of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

- The state of international collaboration for planning and implementing animal genetic resources measures
- The state of financial resources for the conservation, sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources

60. Has your country established or strengthened international collaboration in (SP 16):

Characterization?

- a. Yes
- b. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- c. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- d. No

Sustainable use and development?

- e. Yes

- f. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- g. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- h. No

Conservation of breeds at risk?

- i. Yes
- j. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- k. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- l. No

If yes, briefly describe the collaboration:

Albania has been a partner or coordinating country in various regional projects financed by ERFP, for example:
 (i) Evaluation of current status of Busha cattle and develop a regional breeding programme for their conservation and sustainable economic us,
 (ii) Development of regional network in function of sustainable breeding programmes for transboundary breeds,
 (iii) Study of origin and conservation of the Pramenka sheep breeds as regional transboundary breeds,
 (iv) Building up the role of National Coordinator for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources for strengthening the capacity of Balkan's network for agro-biodiversity of livestock.
 (v) Current status of the brachycerous cattle populations in the SEEC and strategies for their sustainable conservation, etc.

61. Are there any international NGOs active in your country in the fields of:

Characterization?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Sustainable use and development?

- c. Yes
- d. No

Conservation of breeds at risk?

- e. Yes
- f. No

If yes, please list the international NGOs:

SAVE Foundation, Heifer Project Albania.

62. Has national funding for animal genetic resources programmes increased since the adoption of the GPA?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, provide brief details:

Several projects for *in situ* conservation have been financed by public funds, for example: *in situ* conservation and sustainable use of Albanian buffalo; *in situ* conservation of local sheep breed "Shkodrane" and "Lara e Polisit"; *in situ* conservation of Ilyrian Dwarf Cattle "Prespa Cattle"; *in situ* conservation of local pig breeds. Subsidies are implemented for Albanian buffalo since 2002 and for local small ruminants breeds at risk after 2007.

63. Has your country received external funding for implementation of the GPA?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, provide brief details (from whom, for what, how much):

64. Has your country established or strengthened international research and education programmes to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to better manage animal genetic resources (SP 16)?

- a. Yes, programmes established before the adoption of the GPA and strengthened since
- b. Yes, programmes established before the adoption of the GPA but not strengthened since
- c. Yes, programmes established since the adoption of the GPA
- d. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- e. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. No

If yes, briefly describe them:

65. Has your country established or strengthened international support to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to obtain training and technologies and to build their information systems (SP 15)?

- a. Yes, programmes established before the adoption of the GPA and strengthened since
- b. Yes, programmes established before the adoption of the GPA but not strengthened since
- c. Yes, programmes established since the adoption of the GPA
- d. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- e. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- f. No

If yes, provide brief details:

66. Has your country provided funding to other countries for implementation of the Global Plan of Action?

- a. Yes
- b. No, but action is planned and funding identified
- c. No, but action is planned and funding is sought
- d. No

If yes, provide brief details and specify whether it was bilateral or multilateral; research cooperation or aid; and to whom and for what it was given: