



**International organization progress report
on the implementation of
the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources
2007-2013**

1. Contact information and mandate

Name and position of respondent	Al-Aghbari Abdulwali; Director of Animal Wealth - Arabic Center ACSAD
Name of organization	The Arabic Center ACSAD at League of Arabian Countries
E-mail of organization	http://www.acsad.org , aghbari2103@gmail.com
Geographical coverage of your organization	All Arab States

2. Animal species coverage of your organization

General livestock-related mandate	<input type="checkbox"/>
Large ruminants	<input type="checkbox"/>
Small ruminants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pigs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poultry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rabbits & micro livestock	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camelidae	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equines	<input type="checkbox"/>

Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring

1. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on phenotypic characterization of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved and whether you include characterization of production environments:

Program for inventory and characterization of animal genetic resources in Arab countries

Animal genetic resources, and their distribution, productivity, reared systems and products marketing channels requiring a continuous monitoring through the use of the database in order to support efforts of awareness the breeders and government agencies to assist in the preservation of animal genetic resources and in the protection of local factors that have threatened them with extinction.

Project for establishing regional networks or sub-regional to save and exchange of animal genetic resources (gene banks in Arab countries)

This project is implemented with the Ministries of Agriculture in the desired Arab countries.

Objectives:

- Assisting in keeping breeds and endangered species via regional or country genetic banks in the form of embryos or sperm (Ex situ) in the Arab countries.
- Promoting the establishment of private stations (In situ) for conservation and propagation of endangered livestock breeds in their natural habitat in the Arab countries.
- Characterization of the strains with animal genetic fingerprint at the desired Arab countries.
- Creating database of animal genetic resources to allow for the sharing of information among the Arab countries.

Components:

- Inventory of animal genetic resources to detect endangered species in the Arab countries.
- Maintaining livestock biodiversity and ecosystem in the Arab countries.
- Technical assistance in promoting the establishment of stations for breeding endangered species in their native habitat.
- Enriching the database with knowledge of animal genetic resources in Arab countries.

Project for propagation, improvement and dissemination of local poultry in the Arab countries

Investment of promising local poultry breeds in some Arab countries, according to the scientific methods and modern technology, leading to the creation of a sustainable improvement in the productivity of meat and eggs, thus providing.....

2. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on molecular characterization of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

In the center of the Arab plan for the years 2015-2016 to help the Arab countries in the characterization of local animals by DNA

3. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for surveying the size and/or structure of animal genetic resources populations and monitoring population trends?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

The Arab Center (ACSAD), since its inception, works for the assistance of Arab States to safeguard animal genetic resources through conservation and propagation within the natural environment (*in situ*) by providing expertise to Arab countries to help in the establishment of stations for propagation and improved management of local animal genetic resources and particularly, the promising breeds.

Regarding the safeguarding of animal genetic resources outside the natural origin (*ex situ*) (in form of embryos or frozen sperm), the followings were undertaken during the year 2012:

- Continue to follow the propagation of genetic resources in the host country and collaborating stations in the Arab countries.
- The Atlas of livestock was sent to the Arab countries for documenting and preserving the right of ownership of the bio-diversity of genetic resources in the Arab countries and assessing the current status of resources particularly the endangered species and breeds, which requires preservation by the gene banks in the wishing Arab countries.
- Communicate with the Lebanese Republic, the Republic of Algeria, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of the Sudan to collect animals in live gene banks in stations, as well as take-off projects concerning the maintenance and propagation of genetic resources.
- Follow-up of propagation stations and maintaining animal genetic resources in Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Yemen, and Iraq.

4. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for identifying and monitoring threats to animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

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5. Does your organization support countries in the development of early warning and response systems for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

This is done through workshops, seminars and disseminating information about the risks that threaten livestock and how to unify efforts to control it.

6. Is your organization involved in research and development on methods, technical standards or protocols for phenotypic or molecular characterization, surveying and monitoring of population size or threats to animal genetic resources, or breed evaluation, valuation and comparison?

Phenotypic characterization

- Yes
- No

Molecular characterization

- Yes
- No

Surveying and monitoring

- Yes
- No

If yes, participatory monitoring

- Yes
- No

Breed evaluation or comparison

Yes

No

Economic valuation

Yes

No

Please provide details:

The livestock department owns five programs: the first is interested in breeding and genetic improvement of small ruminants in the Arab countries and the second program is interested in the development of camel research and the third is interested in the development of feed research and benefit from agricultural residues and fourth in the use of artificial insemination and embryo transfer in addition to the inventory and characterization of genetic recourses and falls under these programs several projects.

7. Has your organization identified major obstacles to inventory, characterization and monitoring of animal genetic resources in all or part of your mandate area or species coverage?

Yes

No

If yes, please list them being as specific as possible regarding geographical area / species:

Through the Atlas livestock project that was carried out in 2011 in most of the Arab countries that have been cooperating in characterizing all domestic animal species which ended by the issuance of the Atlas and sending to each participating Arab countries (the 15 states).

8. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

Several recommendations have been included to the decision makers to take place.

9. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

1. Does your organization support countries in developing, reviewing or adjusting their national policies affecting the sustainable use of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:

This is done through the exchange of experiences between ACSAD and Arab countries cooperating.

2. Does your organization promote agro-ecosystem approaches?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details:

3. Does your organization contribute to the planning or implementation of strategic breeding programmes?

Mainstream breeds

- Yes
No

Under-utilized breeds

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible:

As described above.

4. Does your organization contribute to the development of recording systems or organizational structures for breeding programmes?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible:

This is done through genetic improvement program, which is implemented in more than 20 stations scattered in 15 Arab countries.

5. If the projects and programmes that your organization implements or supports involve the use of exotic breeds, have any assessments been made of the long-term impacts of the use of exotic breeds on animal genetic resource diversity, livelihoods and/or food security in the affected countries and production systems?

- Yes
No
No projects or programmes involving exotic breeds

If yes, please provide details:

6. Has your organization implemented or supported the implementation of animal genetic resources-related projects that aim at achieving sustainable intensification of production?

- Yes
No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:

This is done through genetic improvement program, which is implemented in more than 20 stations scattered in 15 Arab countries.

7. Does your organization contribute to the development of mechanisms for facilitating interactions among stakeholders, scientific disciplines and sectors as part of planning for sustainable use development of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

The implementation of projects within the five programs listed above is accomplished in cooperation and coordination with the breeders and owners of the sources of livestock.

8. Do your organization's activities contribute to improving farmers' and livestock keepers' knowledge of animal genetic resources from various sources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:

As already mentioned; breeders and cadres are educating through training of local cadres and breeders and via publication, workshops and field work.

9. Do your organization's activities contribute to improving farmers' and livestock keepers' access to animal genetic resources from various sources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:

10. Does your organization contribute to the development of agreements for equitable sharing of benefits arising from access to and use and development of, animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

11. Does your organization contribute to efforts to preserve and respect indigenous or local production systems and associated traditional knowledge and practices related to animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Because of the increase in population and the increasing demand for animal protein, the Arab Centre (ACSAD) paid great attention to the local genetic animal resources where it participates in the management of animal genetic resources in the Arab world.

12. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects that aim to promote the marketing of products from local breeds or local production systems?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the breeds and production systems involved:

The Arab Center have implemented projects related to the manufacture and marketing of camel milk and camel hovering, marketing eggs, and chickens, sheep fattening and marketing of goat's milk and manufacturing sheep cheeses in the Arab countries.

13. Has your organization identified obstacles to enhancing the sustainable use and development of animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

14. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

15. Does your organization provide, or support the provision of, training or technical support programmes for animal breeding activities in pastoralist and farming communities?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

As described above.

16. Has your organization identified priorities for future training or support programmes to enhance the use and development of available animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details of the priority activities, being as specific as possible:

These have been done through the plan of 2015-2016.

17. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable use and development.

The Arab Center (ACSAD) has implemented the Arab Panel's recommendation at its seventh meeting which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in 2008 containing the request of the Arab Center (ACSAD) for preparing a preliminary concept on the availability in the Arab countries to create gene banks to save the animal genetic origins and resources.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

1. Is erosion of animal genetic resources occurring in any of the countries or regions in which your organization is active?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

If yes, please describe. Please be as specific as possible and indicate which factors or drivers affect which species in which countries or regions:

Civil war in some Arab state has this impact.

2. Does your organization support the establishment of emergency response systems that provide for immediate action to maintain threatened breeds?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

3. Does your organization take or support actions to protect breeds and populations that are at risk from natural or human-induced disasters?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

By sending projects to national and international sponsors.

4. From your organizational point of view, how would you judge the state of conservation policies for animal genetic resources in the countries and regions in which you operate?

The Arab world possesses a multiple varied farming livestock which qualify it to be in the forefront of the world in animal production. The Arab countries possess about 174 species of farm animals and their numbers in the Arab world form about 9%, 14%, 3%, and 60% of the total numbers for sheep, goats, cows and camels in the world, respectively. This constitutes an important and big animal biodiversity. Most of these livestock live and live under the traditional agricultural system which has preserved and maintained this animal and livestock biodiversity since ancient times. Because of climate change, new serious diseases have emerged and wide spread drought has taken place in many Arab countries, and the rate of extinction of species or races of domestic animal had increased to fearful levels that some races or breeds could become extinct even before their characteristics and production capacities are evaluated or studied. This had prompted the Arab Center (ACSAD) to take the initiative to protect the animal genetic resources, and ensure the achievement of improved management and sustainable use patterns, specially for the local endangered animal races and breeds which are kept under poor traditional system and environment.

5. What types of conservation measures for animal genetic resources does your organization implement or support the implementation of?

In situ

Yes

No

Ex situ in vivo

Yes

No

Ex situ in vitro

Yes

No

Please provide details, and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:

The Arab Center (ACSAD) has implemented the Arab Panel's recommendation at its seventh meeting which was held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in 2008 containing the request of the Arab Center (ACSAD) for preparing a preliminary concept on the availability in the Arab countries to create gene banks to save the animal genetic origins and resources.

6. If your organization maintains *ex situ* collections of animal genetic resources, could you please provide further information on these collections?

This is done by encouraging Arab states to collect animals of endangered in station for propagation and re-distributed them to breeders.

7. Is your organization conducting research to further develop methods and technologies for *in situ* or *ex situ* conservation of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please briefly describe the research:

8. Has your organization identified major obstacles to enhancing the conservation of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

9. What are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

10. From your organizational point of view, what are the priority requirements for enhancing conservation measures for animal genetic resources in the countries and regions in which you operate? Please list the requirements, being as specific as possible:

Awareness for breeders and providing effective management and implementation of protection laws.

11. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation.

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

1. Does your organization support or facilitate the establishment of institutional frameworks for planning and implementing animal genetic resources programmes?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

2. Does your organization support countries in formulating or implementing national strategies and action plans for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved:

Only within desired Arab states.

3. Does your organization contribute to the development of regulatory frameworks or legislation for animal genetic resources?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:

4. Does your organization have a database or information system for animal genetic resources-related data?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please describe the purpose and contents of the system and, if relevant, how frequently data are updated:

5. Does your organization have collaborative links to other stakeholders involved in the management of animal genetic resources (e.g. the breeding industry, livestock keepers, government agencies, research institutes and civil society organizations)?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

As described above.

6. Does your organization cooperate with breeders' organizations?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

As described previously.

7. Has your organization supported the establishment or strengthening of community-based organizations, networks or initiatives for sustainable use, breeding or conservation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

8. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of training or capacity-building programmes for animal genetic resources management?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details and specify countries involved:

9. Has your organization identified priorities for future animal genetic resources-related capacity-building and education?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide details:

10. Does your organization implement or support the implementation of programmes to increase public awareness of the roles and values of animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

11. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation of Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, institutions and capacity-building.

Implementation and Financing of Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

1. Has your organization's budget for activities supporting the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and animal genetic resources programmes increased since the plan's adoption in September 2007?

Yes

No

Please provide details:

2. Has your organization contributed to the establishment or strengthening of international research and/or education programmes to assist developing countries or countries with economies in transition to better manage animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

3. Has your organization contributed to the establishment or strengthening of international programmes to assist developing countries or countries with economies in transition to obtain training and technologies or develop information systems related to animal genetic resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

4. Has your organization provided funding to countries for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved:

5. Has your organization contributed to establishing or strengthening international collaboration with regard to:

Characterization of animal genetic resources

Yes

No

Use and development of animal genetic resources

Yes

No

Conservation of transboundary breeds

Yes

No

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:

6. Does your organization collaborate with national or international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the fields of:

Characterization

Yes

No

Sustainable intensification

Yes

No

Conservation of breeds at risk

Yes

No

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:

7. Please describe any additional activities relevant to the implementation and financing of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources:

