



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

Sub-Regional Focal Point for West and Central Africa

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

Most relevant strategic priorities and actions:

Strategic Priority 1, Action 6: *“Strengthen global and regional information systems ...”*

Strategic Priority 1, Action 7: *“Establish or strengthen existing breed endangerment early-warning and response systems, through the further development of national, regional and global risk monitoring mechanisms...”*

The Sub Regional Focal Point for West and Central Africa was established in June 2011.

The priority actions are:

- assist and coordinate baseline studies on inventory and characterization of AnGR and their production systems with a particular focus on transboundary breeds;
- develop harmonized methodologies and protocols for data collection in country studies in order to realize meta-analyses at regional level;
- establish a regional information system on AnGR and improve reporting to DAD-IS.

Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

Priority actions are:

- support regional breeding programmes based on the experience of the N'dama cattle selection programme implemented under the PROGEBE project;
- support national and regional projects on animal identification and recording;
- support national and regional projects on the valorization of local breeds and their products and the improvement of their marketing and commercialization;
- support the establishment of new breeders' organizations and strengthen the existing ones at national and regional levels;
- promote modern reproductive biotechnologies (artificial insemination, embryo transfer, etc.) as tools for enhancing the diffusion of genetic progress.

Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

Most relevant strategic priorities and actions:

Strategic Priority 8, Action 2: *“Encourage the development and implementation of national and **regional in situ conservation programmes** for breeds and populations that are at risk ...”*

Strategic Priority 10: *“Develop and implement **regional and global long-term conservation strategies**”*

Strategic Priority 9, Action 2: *“Establish or strengthen national and **regional facilities for ex situ conservation**, in particular cryogenic storage. Support the efforts of countries within a region that have opted to establish a regional facility.”*

Priority actions are:

- support the formulation and implementation of conservation strategies and programmes for breeds and transboundary animal populations at risk through a combination of in situ and ex situ activities;
- support the establishment of sub-regional facilities for ex situ conservation and in particular for in vitro conservation, such as a gene bank.

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

Most relevant strategic priorities and actions:

Strategic Priority 13 Action 3: *“Establish or strengthen, in partnership with other countries, as appropriate, relevant research, training and extension institutions, including national and **regional agricultural research systems**, to support efforts to characterize, inventory and monitor trends and associated risks, sustainably use and develop, and conserve animal genetic resources.”*

Strategic Priority 17: *“**Establish Regional Focal Points and strengthen international networks**”*

Strategic Priority 19 Action 1: *“**Support regional and international campaigns to raise awareness of the status of animal genetic resources for food and agriculture**, and seek to develop wide support at the government and institutional levels, as well as among the general public.”*

Strategic Priority 23, Action 1: *“Assist all stakeholders to strengthen capacity-building, including by exchange of experience, by enhancing research and educational activities, and by providing **training opportunities, technology transfer and financial resources**, at national, **regional and international levels** ... ”*

Implementation and financing (paragraph 57): *“The international networks for animal genetic resources should be encouraged and strengthened through implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, noting the **important role of Regional Focal Points and regional networking to build collaborative partnerships, to coordinate regional management efforts in animal genetic resources, to further develop information sharing, and for technical cooperation, training and research.**”*

Priority actions are:

- support countries to formulate and implement national action plans for the management of AnGR in their livestock policies;
- support countries to formulate or strengthen their national genetic improvement and conservation policies as components of their national action plans for the management of AnGR;
- facilitate communication at regional level and support the activities of national coordinators for AnGR;
- support breeders' organizations and national focal points for AnGR;
- support capacity building through regional training workshops on inventory, characterization and monitoring of trends and associated risks and on sustainable utilization, development and conservation of AnGR;
- support the establishment of "centres of excellence" in the area of AnGR management in the subregion.

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

Most relevant paragraph:

Implementation and financing (paragraph 50): “... *implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources will require substantial and additional financial resources and long-term support for national, regional and international animal genetic resources programmes and priority activities, provided such incentives are consistent with relevant international agreements. The process should encourage and support the participation of governments and all relevant stakeholders. **Regional and international collaboration will be crucial.***”

The implementation of activities will be mainly carried out through national focal points and through regional technical institutions and the institution that will host the sub-regional focal point.

For funding, the S-RFP will seek contributions from:

- member countries;
- regional economic organizations;
- regional technical institutions through their research and development projects;
- formulation of regional projects endorsed by countries and submission for funding by international development institutions such as the World Bank, African Development, GEF, UNDP, IFAD, etc.