



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

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 6.3 of the Provisional Agenda

Twentieth Regular Session

Rome, 24–28 March 2025

PREPARATION OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. Introduction.....	1–2
II. Background.....	3–4
III. Proposed scope and sources of information of the <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	5–12
IV. Preparatory process and reporting timeline for <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	13–16
V. Required financial resources	17–18
VI. Guidance sought.....	19

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

NQ936/E

I. INTRODUCTION

1. According to the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Second Report) is due in 2028/29.¹
2. This document discusses the scope and structure of the Second Report, the timeline and the process for its preparation, for consideration by the Commission.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The Commission, at its Eleventh Regular Session, recognized the importance and vulnerability of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (AqGR), their roles in an ecosystem approach for food and agriculture, and for their contributions to meeting the challenges presented by climate change. It agreed that its MYPOW should cover aquatic genetic resources and requested the preparation of the country-driven report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*² (First Report). The First Report, launched in 2019, is based on 92 country reports and five thematic background studies.³ The country reports were generated based on the *Questionnaire for the Preparation of Country Reports for the First State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.⁴
4. In response to the First Report, the Commission agreed on, and the Council adopted in 2021 the Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Global Plan of Action).⁵ Following the publication of the First Report, FAO also developed AquaGRIS, the Aquatic Genetic Resources Information System, which facilitates the collection and analysis of data on the status of conservation, sustainable use and development of aquaculture species, and their farmed types and genetic stocks.⁶ The use of AquaGRIS will simplify the reporting process for the Second Report as far as the status of AqGR is concerned. AquaGRIS may also help to improve the quality and overall accuracy and reliability of data collected due to the use of standardized terminology, including the newly established categories of farmed types of AqGR.

III. PROPOSED SCOPE AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION OF *THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE*

5. The Second Report will provide a comprehensive assessment of the status of AqGR and, like the First Report, the Second Report will be limited in scope to farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives within national jurisdiction. Like other recent global assessments prepared under the guidance of the Commission, the structure of the Second Report should reflect the structure of the Global Plan of Action. However, a detailed proposal for the structure of the Second Report will be presented to the Sixth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) for its consideration.

¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, *Appendix E, Annex 1*.

² FAO. 2019. *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture assessments. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5256EN>

³ FAO. 2021. *Thematic Background Study – Incorporating genetic diversity and indicators into statistics and monitoring of farmed aquatic species and their wild relatives*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7951en>; FAO. 2021. *Thematic Background Study – Genome-based biotechnologies in aquaculture*. Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7955en>; Hurtado, A.Q. 2022. *Genetic resources for farmed seaweeds – Thematic background study*. Rome. FAO. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7903en>; FAO. 2021. *Genetic resources for microorganisms of current and potential use in aquaculture – Thematic background study*. Rome.

<https://doi.org/10.4060/cb7876en>; FAO. 2021. *Thematic Background Study - Genetic resources for farmed freshwater macrophytes: a review*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb6597en>

⁴ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/bp506e>

⁵ FAO. 2022. *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9905en>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/fishery/aquagris/en>

6. AquaGRIS will allow National Focal Points to generate reports and indicators on the status of AqGR.⁷ In order to monitor data on processes initiated by countries with regard to the management of AqGR, data will be gathered through a separate procedure using a process indicator questionnaire, a first draft of which was presented to the Fifth Session of the Working Group. The process indicator questionnaire will be made available on the same platform as AquaGRIS and with a user interface similar to the data collection interface of AquaGRIS.
7. The Second Report will thus mainly rely on data generated through the monitoring framework. The Working Group, at its Fifth Session, welcomed the monitoring framework as key tool for the preparation of the Second Report.⁸
8. The information covered by AquaGRIS and the process indicator questionnaire, reflecting the resource and process indicators developed for monitoring the implementation of the *Global Plan for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Global Plan of Action),⁹ cover essentially, in a standardized and harmonized format, all information addressed by the country questionnaire used for the preparation of the First Report.
9. The data gathering via AquaGRIS and the process indicator questionnaire allow for considerable simplification of the data collection and analysis process for the Second Report. It is thus proposed that the Second Report be based primarily on an analysis and summary of the resource and process indicator reports generated from these two data sources, via the AquaGRIS platform. It is further proposed that the Second Report provide essentially the same information elements covered by the First Report but with a shorter, more concise quantitative analysis.
10. As inputs to the Second Report, FAO intends to commission studies on specific topics, to be identified in consultation with the Working Group.
11. The Second Report would thus rely on the following sources of information:
- national resource indicator reports generated from data contained in AquaGRIS;
 - national process indicator reports generated from process indicator questionnaire data; and
 - thematic background studies, to be identified in consultation with the Working Group.
12. It is recognized that in modifying the data collection and reporting modality the direct comparison of quantitative data between the First Report and the Second Report may be compromised in many cases due to lack of harmonized methodologies between the two reports and differences in the definitions of terms used in the two reports. Thus, some decadal changes that may represent distinct trends over time may not be readily identifiable or may be misleading. While every effort should be made in relating data presented in the Second Report to similar data in the First Report, it should be acknowledged that the quality, relevance and accuracy of data used in compiling the Second Report will be greater due to the use of the new standardized and harmonized terminology in data collection resulting from the extensive consultation that has taken place since the first global assessment was conducted.

IV. PREPARATORY PROCESS AND REPORTING TIMELINE FOR THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

13. The use of AquaGRIS and, in particular, of the national registries of AqGR that Members are expected to create in AquaGRIS, means that the representativity of the Second Report will depend on the number of countries that have created national registries in AquaGRIS. While the Commission has recognized the importance of developing national registries of AqGR through the use of AquaGRIS¹⁰ and a few countries have already initiated the preparation of national registries, with some supported by FAO, initial creation of a national registry represents a significant reporting burden for National

⁷ CGRFA-20/25/6.2/Inf.2.

⁸ CGRFA-20/25/6.1, paragraph 27.

⁹ CGRFA-20/25/6.2/Inf.5.

¹⁰ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 117.

Focal Points, especially for those from countries with large aquaculture sectors. However, once a national registry has been created, updating the data in AquaGRIS, which should take place at least every two years, will require much less work than the preparation of a fully-fledged country report.

14. National Focal Points will be requested to validate all data in the national registry prior to the generation of the resource indicator reports that will be used for reporting to the Commission, including for the preparation of the Second Report. The proposed timeline for the preparation of the Second Report is shown in *Appendix 1* to this document.

15. The Working Group, at its Fifth Session, endorsed the data collecting process and the timeline for the preparation of the Second Report. The Working Group further recommended that the Second Report be a concise assessment of the global state of conservation, sustainable use and development of AqGR.¹¹

16. The Working Group deferred a decision on the frequency of updating AquaGRIS but indicated that the process indicator questionnaire should be distributed for completion by National Focal Points every five years.¹²

V. REQUIRED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

17. FAO's work on AqGR forms part of the FAO's Blue Transformation Roadmap (*Sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion satisfies global demand for aquatic food and distributes benefits equitably* – Targets A2-A5).¹³ For the current biennium, available resources for the work on AqGR include one regular programme post (Senior Fisheries Officer P-5 level – Aquatic Genetic Resources),¹⁴ temporary support staff and financial resources for the organization of the Fifth Session of the Working Group. However, this level of support is insufficient to deliver the full work programme on AqGR and, more specifically the preparation of the Second Report.

18. The estimated extra-budgetary resources required for the preparation and publication of the Second Report are presented in *Appendix 2*. Extrabudgetary financial resources are required, in particular, to support countries in the development of national registries of AqGR and the completion of the process indicator questionnaire.

VI. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

19. The Commission may wish to:

- (i) take note of the proposed preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*, including the emphasis on efficient reporting through utilization of data from AquaGRIS, and the proposed timelines;
- (ii) call upon countries to create national registries of AqGR in AquaGRIS and invite FAO to support countries in the creation of such registries;
- (iii) call upon countries to complete the process indicator questionnaire when requested by FAO; and
- (iv) take note of the extra-budgetary resources required and encourage resource partners and donors to financially support the preparation of the Second Report.

¹¹ CGRFA-20/25/6.1, paragraphs 27 and 28.

¹² CGRFA-20/25/6.1, paragraph 27.

¹³ FAO. 2022. *Blue Transformation - Roadmap 2022–2030: A vision for FAO's work on aquatic food systems*. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0459en>

¹⁴ Noting that this position includes work on aquatic genetic resources but is not exclusively dedicated to it.

APPENDIX 2**Estimated extra-budgetary resources (USD) required for the preparation of *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture***

Item	2025–2026	2027–2028	2029	Total
Consultant supporting the preparation of the Second Report	21 000	28 000	31 500	80 500
Authors of thematic background studies	31 500	21 000		52 500
Consultants supporting countries to compile national registries of AqGR	50 000	50 000		100 000
IT consultant supporting development of online process indicator questionnaire	15 000	5 000	0	20 000
Senior Aquaculture Officer (P5) – Technical Support Service	7 000	7 000	7 000	21 000
Copy editing of Second Report	0	0	3 750	3 750
Copy editing of the in brief version of the Second Report	0	0	500	500
Copy editing of 5 thematic background studies	0	12 500	0	12 500
Layout design of the Second Report in 6 languages			20 000	20 000
Layout design of in brief in 6 languages			4 000	4 000
Layout design of 5 thematic background studies			6 000	6 000
Translation of the Second Report in 6 languages			152 880	152 880
Translation of in brief in 6 languages			21 840	21 840
Launch of Second Report			20 000	20 000
Indirect support costs (7%)				36 083
Total				551 553