



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

---

# **Progress report for Regional Focal Points on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources 2007-2019**

---

July, 2019

#9

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 8:40:03 AM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 11:38:00 AM  
**Time Spent:** 02:57:57  
**IP Address:** 41.210.154.3

---

Page 1: Introduction

**Q1**

Contact information and mandate

Name and position of respondent	<b>Donald Rugira KUGONZA</b>
Name of organization	<b>Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)</b>
Email of organization	<b>secretariat@asareca.org</b>
Email of respondent	<b>donkugonza@gmail.com</b>
Geographic coverage of your organization	<b>Eastern and Central Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda)</b>

---

**Q2**

**General livestock-related mandate**

Animal species coverage of your organization (check all that apply)

---

Page 2: Strategic Priority Area 1: Characterization, Inventory and Monitoring

**Q3**

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

**Yes,**  
If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved and whether you include characterization of production environments::  
ASARECA has been involved and funded projects on characterisation of production systems in all the 12 member states (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda)

---

International organization progress report on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources 2007-2018

<b>Q4</b> Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes on molecular characterization of animal genetic resources?	<b>Yes,</b> If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and species involved:: we supported molecular work on Ugandan Ankole cattle
<b>Q5</b> 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?	<b>No</b>
<b>Q6</b> Does your organization implement or support the implementation of projects or programmes for identifying and monitoring threats to animal genetic resources?	<b>No</b>
<b>Q7</b> Does your organization support countries in the development of early warning and response systems for animal genetic resources?	<b>No</b>
<b>Q8</b> 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? (check all that apply)	<b>Phenotypic characterization,</b> <b>Molecular characterization,</b> <b>Surveying and monitoring,</b> Please provide details:: ASARECA has been supporting projects on characterisation of livestock e.g. indigenous cattle of Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia; and indigenous goats in Eritrea, Rwanda and Kenya.
<b>Q9</b> 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?	<b>Yes,</b> If yes, please list them being as specific as possible regarding geographical area / species:: Civil strife / insecurity - South Sudan, Sudan, - for all species Limited financial resources, - Uganda, Ethiopia - for all species Limited technical staff - Burundi, Eritrea, - for all species

**Q10**

If obstacles have been encountered, what are the priority measures that need to be taken to address these obstacles?

Seek to political negotiations

Develop Project grants

Convince governments to prioritise and fund activities to overcome the financial obstacle

---

**Q11**

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

Encourage all countries to develop National strategy and action plans - Kenya, Ethiopia, Burundi currently have these; Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda are almost done

---

Page 3: Strategic Priority Area 2: Sustainable Use and Development

**Q12**

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

**Yes,**

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

Under the animal genetic resources project of AU-IBAR that we partnered with and helped implement, several countries developed their National Strategies and Action Plans for sustainable use of AnGR

---

**Q13**

Does your organization promote agro-ecosystem approaches?

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details::

ASARECA has over 10 years been implementing a project on Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification - CASI

---

**Q14**

Does your organization contribute to the planning or implementation of strategic breeding programmes? (check all that apply)

Please provide details (including the breeds involved) being as specific as possible::

NO

---

**Q15**

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

---

**No**

**Q16**

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?

No

**Q17**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and animal genetic resources involved:  
the CASI project was implemented in Ethiopia, Madagascar, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania. In each country, we worked with available breeds of livestock, mostly indigenous cattle and small ruminants. there was promotion of using animal fecal waste to fertilise crop fields. We also promoted use of crop residues after harvest to feed livestock.

**Q18**

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,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved:  
ASARECA has been organising and hosting the Regional meetings, general assemblies for Eastern Africa sub-regional focal point. These steering committee and general assemblies were held every year for the 12 countries. The meetings were held in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. ASARECA has also strongly participated in capacity building of stakeholders and scientists.

**Q19**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved:  
There has been deliberate farmer training in various member states on selection and improvement. Farmers associations and breeders associations for various breeds were also developed and empowered.

**Q20**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries and types of animal genetic resources involved::  
Under the just concluded genetics project, several countries were capacitated to train farmers and keepers to have access to genetic resources. In previous ASARECA supported/funded projects, farmers were provided with indigenous goats (in Rwanda); Nganda bulls (in Uganda), Teso bulls (in Uganda), other indigenous cattle in Ethiopia; Among other initiatives

**Q21**

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?

**No**

**Q22**

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?

**No**

**Q23**

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,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the breeds and production systems involved::  
Under the Enabling Policy Environment for Functional Markets and Transformative Institutions THEME, we are concerned with enhancing commercialisation of smallholder farming through improved access to input and output markets. This is done by analysing bottlenecks to input and output marketing; promoting viable approaches that improve access to markets; and advocating for an enabling policy environment. Viable approaches are supported by technologies to promote value addition to agricultural produce. The theme also focuses on continued engagement with value chains and innovation systems and emphasises the importance of trade in driving market processes.

**Q24**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details::  
We note the general reluctance to conserve indigenous animal resources in peri-urban areas of most member states. In these areas, indigenous animals are being substituted massively.

**Q25**

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

Advocate to the communities in affected areas on the need to conserve native materials; judicious use of imported genetic materials; identifying niche markets for products from indigenous species so as to make the competitive.

---

**Q26**

**No**

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

---

**Q27**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details of the priority activities, being as specific as possible:  
Training is needed for data collection and management;  
Establishment of breed associations; Gene banking

---

**Q28**

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

---

**Respondent skipped this question**

---

Page 4: Strategic Priority Area 3: Conservation

**Q29**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please describe. Please be as specific as possible and indicate which factors or drivers affect which species in which countries or regions:  
In Uganda, the Nganda cattle are located in the rapidly urbanising central region. They are heavily being eroded by crossbreeding with the introduced dairy breeds, notably the Holstein Friesian.

---

**Q30**

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

---

**No**

**Q31**

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

---

**No**

**Q32**

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?

**Positive,**

Please explain your answer::

A few countries such as Uganda and Kenya, i would say the policies are very positive. Others like Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia, there are no clear policies. In Rwanda, despite there being policies, the challenges of land limitation are impeding the conservation efforts by producers.

**Q33**

What types of conservation measures for animal genetic resources does your organization implement or support the implementation of? (check all that apply)

**In situ,**

**Ex situ in vitro,**

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

ASARECA is coordinating the Eastern Africa Regional Gene Bank effort. At this gene bank, all 12 member states are supposed to Collect and transmit genetic resources for central and secure banking at the regional facility located in Entebbe, Uganda.

**Q34**

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

NA

**Q35**

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

**No**

**Q36**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details::

Limited Infrastructure Limited land Limited health care arrangements Limited human capacity - few persons trained in Gene bank operations and management

**Q37**

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

Training of technicians, Scientists

Advocacy among policy makers, technical officers of government ministries



**Q38**

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:

Enabling policies;  
Building capacities;  
Budget support for recruitment and retention of competent staff

---

**Q39**

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

NA

---

Page 5: Strategic Priority Area 4: Policies, Institutions and Capacity-building

**Q40**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries or regions involved::  
ASARECA was been involved in the development, awareness creation and facilitating the domestication of the validated IGAD model policy / legal framework on AnGR; (countries involved are: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.) ASARECA was involved in the development and validation of the Strategy for the Conservation and Rational Utilization of Livestock Genetic Resources in the East African Community (EAC); (countries involved are: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.) ASARECA strongly participated in the establishment of the Eastern Africa regional gene bank for AnGRs and has been selected as the coordinator of this initiative. (countries involved are: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, the Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.)

---

**Q41**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details and specify the countries involved::  
ASARECA acting as the coordinator for the Eastern Africa region did actively support, participate and review the documents for several countries including: Rwanda, Uganda and Djibouti. ASARECA has also promoted popularisation of national strategies of Kenya and Ethiopia

---

<b>Q42</b> Does your organization contribute to the development of regulatory frameworks or legislation for animal genetic resources?	<b>No</b>
<b>Q43</b> Does your organization have a database or information system for animal genetic resources-related data?	<b>No</b>
<b>Q44</b> 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)?	<b>Yes,</b> If yes, please provide details:: ASARECA closely works with breeding agencies in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. It has linkages with livestock keepers and government agencies, research institutes in all ASARECA countries. (countries involved are: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, the Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.)
<b>Q45</b> Does your organization cooperate with breeders' organizations?	<b>Yes,</b> If yes, please provide details:: In various countries in Eastern and Central Africa
<b>Q46</b> Has your organization supported the establishment or strengthening of community-based organizations, networks or initiatives for sustainable use, breeding or conservation?	<b>Yes,</b> If yes, please provide details:: ASARECA has supported the strengthening of the Ankole Cattle producers groups and championed their cause to form a regional association.
<b>Q47</b> Does your organization implement or support the implementation of training or capacity-building programmes for animal genetic resources management?	<b>Yes,</b> If yes, please provide details and specify countries involved:: ASARECA supports implementation of training and capacity building programmes. During the recent capacity building on Access and Benefit sharing of AnGR for Stakeholders from across Africa, ASARECA facilitated a session on Negotiation skills to enhance access and benefit sharing of ANGR in Africa.

**Q48**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details::

ASARECA is supporting the proposed establishment of an African Animal Breeding Academy, that will streamline and consolidate efforts in the Africa-wide capacity building in AnGR management. Its an effort to build the next generation of African Animal Geneticists and Animal Breeders. One of the four thematic areas of ASARECA is: Transformative Capacity Strengthening and Integration

---

**Q49**

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

**Yes,**

If yes, please provide details::

ASARECA has a theme area: Knowledge and Information Management. In the Second Operational Plan, ASARECA is playing the function of a sub-regional hub of knowledge and information (KI). We are making use of enormous amounts of information already generated. The Knowledge and Information Hub is meant to share sub-regional benefits of ASARECA work. The Hub is a focal point for generating and exchanging knowledge, developing new ideas and networking. Among other things, it mainstreams new scientific concepts in TIMPs and policies in the region and facilitates learning to boost the capabilities of ASARECA stakeholders. The Hub also serves as a sub-regional focal point for data and information generated by ASARECA and other AR4D organisations both in ECA and beyond.

---

**Q50**

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

Information has been provided to fairly good detail

---

## Page 6: Implementation and Financing of Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources

**Q51**

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,**

Pleas provide details::

The budgets were either provided as competitive regional research grants; or partner-funded initiatives in which ASARECA was a lead or key partner.

---

**Q52**

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,**

If yes, please provide details::

Under the SCARDA project, ASARECA, RUFORUM and PICO team have partnered in Capacity Development initiatives in Rwanda, Burundi and Sudan. Recently, design and learning workshops were conducted at ISAR in Rwanda and ISABU in Burundi as part of the capacity building initiative. The learnings from the design workshops helped to focus the program on those leadership and management issues that were of highest priority to the staff and Management and using an approach that allowed dynamic unravelling of issues, open, candid discussions and co-creation of solutions. Some of the areas that dominated the workshops in both FIs were: staff motivation as a performance enhancer; enhancing skills for personal and organizational visioning and strategic thinking; feedback as a means of improving quality of communication and effectiveness of teams (including its application in the context of staff performance management); role of mentoring and coaching in enhancing individual/personal development, performance improvement overall career development and in creating a cadre of next generation leaders and managers; and situational performance management.

**Q53**

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,**

If yes, please provide details::

ASARECA through SCARDA supported training of Rwanda scientists in developing capacity.

**Q54**

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

**No,**

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

ASARECA is not a donor agency, but is owned by the NARS of the founding and current member countries who provide budget support for operations of the ASARECA secretariat. However, whenever ASARECA wins grants, it puts them to the use for which such funds were secured and among these are activities for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

**Q55**

Has your organization contributed to establishing or strengthening international collaboration with regard to: (check all that apply)

**Characterization of animal genetic resources,**  
**Use and development of animal genetic resources,**  
**Conservation of transboundary breeds,**

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:  
ASARECA has participated in the activities for characterisation in various Eastern Africa countries. It has been central in the establishment of the regional gene bank for AnGR that is meant to promote conservation of breeds in Eastern Africa, initially of transboundary breeds, and eventually of national and unique breeds and ecotypes.

---

**Q56**

Does your organization collaborate with national or international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the fields of: (check all that apply)

**Characterization,**  
**Sustainable intensification,**  
**Conservation of breeds at risk,**

Please provide details and specify the countries involved:  
ASARECA was founded by and strongly collaborates with National Agricultural Research Institutes of Eastern Africa countries including Burundi, Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. ASARECA also partners with many other international non-governmental organisations

---

**Q57**

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

ASARECA is willing to partner with FAO and other interested partners to seek funding for long term capacity building of Africans as well as supporting the implementation of the GPA in Eastern Africa.

---