



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Fifth Session

Rome, 18–20 September 2024

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

ITEM 1: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON(S) AND RAPPORTEUR

In accordance with its Statutes, the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Working Group) “shall elect its Chairperson and one or more Vice-Chairpersons from among the representatives of Members of the Working Group at the beginning of each session. These officers shall remain in office until the next session of the Working Group and shall be eligible for re-election”. The Working Group shall also elect a *Rapporteur*.

Relevant information is contained in the document *Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Rapporteur* (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/1). The Statutes of the Working Group and its composition are provided in the document *CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/1/Inf.1*.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

The provisional agenda is contained in document *CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/2*. A provisional timetable is provided in *Annex 1* to the present document, which provides annotations to the provisional agenda. The list of documents for this session is contained in document *CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/2/Inf.1*.

ITEM 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The *Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (Global Plan of Action)¹ was adopted by the 168th Session of the FAO Council in December 2021.² The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission), at its Nineteenth Regular Session, recommended that the FAO Council request FAO to report on its activities in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to every session of the Working Group and the Commission.³

The Committee on Fisheries (COFI) at its Thirty-sixth Session, highlighted FAO's contribution to information sharing on aquatic biodiversity in order to support Members' implementation of environmental instruments, including the Global Plan of Action.⁴

The document *Status of the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/3)* summarizes the activities undertaken by FAO, in collaboration with its partners, since February 2023.

FAO has continued to distribute and communicate on the Global Plan of Action to Members. The implementation of the Global Plan of Action has been made a key element of the Guidelines for Sustainable Aquaculture (GSA), with regard to the conservation of aquatic biodiversity, management and sustainable supply of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (AqGR). The GSA were adopted at the Thirty-sixth Session of COFI in July 2024.^{5,6}

FAO has finalized a list of 80 key terms for the description of AqGR (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/3/Inf.3**) to be published as an AGROVOC thesaurus and harmonized across FAO term platforms. Inter alia, FAO also finalized the draft *Guidelines for Genetic Management of Stocking Programmes for Aquatic Species (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/3/Inf.1)* and the draft *Guidelines for ex situ in vitro gene banking of aquatic genetic resources (CGRFA-WG-AqGR-5/24/3/Inf.2)*.

The Working Group is invited to take note of FAO's activities in support of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and to provide guidance on further activities, including the finalization of the guidelines.

ITEM 4: DEVELOPMENT OF A GLOBAL INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR FARMED TYPES OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, welcomed the development of AquaGRIS, FAO's global information system for AqGR. It requested FAO to finalize the development of the full version of AquaGRIS, taking into account the importance of the interoperability of AquaGRIS with other operational information systems related to AqGR in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to facilitate the smooth exchange of information.⁷ The Commission recommended that FAO prepare a manual explaining in detail how data should be entered into AquaGRIS⁸ and requested FAO to provide specific support to the National Focal Points, including through training workshops, either virtual and/or in-person, to ensure that Members are able to provide reliable data to AquaGRIS.⁹

¹ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9905en>

² CL 168/REP, paragraph 38(a).

³ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 121.

⁴ **COFI Report – add when ready**

⁵ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b87a56eb-749d-4e76-b952-413708c021e0/content>

⁶ **COFI Report – add when ready**

⁷ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 113.

⁸ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 120.

⁹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 114.

The document *Status of development of a global information system for farmed types of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/4)* summarizes the progress made in the finalization of AquaGRIS since the last session of the Commission and discusses current and future activities aimed at building countries' capacity to use AquaGRIS for the development of national registries of AqGR and for future reporting by countries on the status of conservation, sustainable use, and development of AqGR.

The Working Group is invited to provide advice regarding the future development and implementation of AquaGRIS.

ITEM 5: INDICATORS FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission, at its Eighteenth Regular Session, highlighted the need for the development of quantifiable indicators for the monitoring of the Global Plan of Action and requested that these be incorporated into AquaGRIS, as appropriate.¹⁰ At its Nineteenth Regular Session, the Commission took note of the draft indicators and the timeline proposed for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. It recommended that the FAO Council request FAO to hold further consultations on these in order to address any difficulties, inconsistencies and ambiguities.¹¹

The document *Monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5)* presents two sets of indicators (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5/Inf.1**): the *resource indicators* that quantify the status of AqGR based on data collected in AquaGRIS; and the *process indicators* that relate to national, regional and global processes concerning the management of AqGR, based on a stand-alone process indicator questionnaire (**CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5/Inf.2**). The document also presents a proposed timeline for data collection and reporting on these indicators.

The Working Group is invited to review and revise, as needed, the proposed indicators, for consideration by the Commission.

ITEM 6: PREPARATION OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

In 2019, FAO published the report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW AqGR-1)*,¹² the first global assessment on the status of conservation, sustainable use and development of AqGR. According to the Strategic Plan for the Commission,¹³ *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (SoW AqGR-2)* should be prepared and launched in 2029 on the occasion of the Twenty-second Regular Session of the Commission.

The document *Preparation of the Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/6)* presents a proposed strategy for the preparation of SoW AqGR-2, through a more effective approach. The preparation would be based on an analysis of national resource indicator reports generated from data entered by countries in AquaGRIS (updated every two years) and national process indicator reports generated from a separate process indicator questionnaire completed immediately prior to the preparation of the report. The SoW AqGR-2 would also incorporate the findings of Thematic Background Studies on issues identified by

¹⁰ CGRFA-18/21/Report, paragraph 59.

¹¹ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 119.

¹² <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5256EN>

¹³ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/3eb40157-0f57-4080-a17f-a34c5084f601/content>

the Working Group. The document discusses the scope of the SoW AqGR-2 and the potential benefits of the proposed strategy and outlines the issues of comparing trends and addressing gaps in data between SoW AqGR-1 and SoW AqGR-2. The document also highlights the importance for countries to utilize AquaGRIS to create national registries of AqGR in the coming years.

The Working Group is invited to review and revise, as needed, the proposed strategy, reporting requirements and timeline for the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2, for consideration by the Commission at its next session.

ITEM 7: CLIMATE CHANGE AND AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Commission, at its Nineteenth Regular Session, reviewed and simplified the voluntary draft questionnaire on genetic resources for food and agriculture and climate change.¹⁴ It requested the Secretariat to finalize the questionnaire and subsequently circulate it to all National Focal Points to the Commission to coordinate national consultations and subsequent submissions, with a view to establishing a baseline of national responses for all sectors. It further requested the Secretariat to prepare a summary of responses to the questionnaire for consideration by all the Working Groups.¹⁵

The document *Climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/7)* provides an initial baseline report collated from a limited number of responses to the climate change questionnaire (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/7/Inf.1). Furthermore, it follows up on the Commission's suggestions regarding the revision of the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*¹⁶ and the organization of a global multistakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA.

More detailed information on *FAO's work on climate change* is provided in the document **CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/7/Inf.2**.

The Working Group is invited to take note of the draft baseline report and provide further guidance with regard to the development of the report, provide advice regarding the Voluntary Guidelines and the convening of the global multistakeholder workshop on climate change and GRFA.

ITEM 8: OPTIONS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

In agreeing on the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (2023–2031), the Commission, at its last session, requested the Secretariat to propose options for a procedure for the ad hoc identification of new and emerging issues for inclusion in the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW), for review by the intergovernmental technical working groups and the Commission at their next sessions.¹⁷

The document *Options for the identification of new and emerging issues (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/8)* provides some background to the Commission's request, explores existing and possible new procedures through which new and emerging issues can or potentially could be identified ad hoc for consideration by the Commission.

The Working Group is invited to consider and advise the Commission on the different options for the identification of new and emerging issues.

¹⁴ CGRFA-19/23/Report, *Appendix B*.

¹⁵ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 16.

¹⁶ FAO. 2015. *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*. Rome. www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/290cd085-98f3-43df-99a9-250cec270867

¹⁷ CGRFA-19/23/Report, paragraph 126.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER MATTERS

ITEM 10: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

ANNEX 1

PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

Date and time	Agenda item	Title	Working document
Wednesday, 18 September 2024			
Morning			
10.00–13.00	1	Election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and <i>Rapporteur</i>	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/1
	2	Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/2 CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/2 Add.1
	3	Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/3
Wednesday, 18 September 2024			
Afternoon			
14:30–17:30	4	Development of a global information system for farmed types of aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/4/
	5	Indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5
Thursday, 19 September 2024			
Morning			
10.00–13.00	6	Preparation of <i>The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture</i>	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-6/24/6
	7	Climate change and aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/7
Thursday, 19 September 2024			
Afternoon			
14:30–17:30	8	Options for the identification of new and emerging issues	CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/8
	9	Any other matters	
Friday, 20 September 2024			
Afternoon			
14:30–17:30	10	Adoption of the Report	