



COMMISSION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda

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

Fifth Session

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

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Eleventh Regular Session, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Commission) agreed that improving the collection and sharing of information on aquatic genetic resources for food and agriculture (AqGR) is of high priority and included the preparation of the report on *The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* (SoW AqGR-1) in its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW).¹ At its Thirteenth² and Fourteenth³ Regular Sessions, the Commission considered and agreed the scope and structure of the report and called on countries to participate in the process by preparing country reports on aquatic genetic resources.
2. The SoW AqGR-1⁴ was published in August 2019 on the occasion of the Tenth Regular Session of the Committee on Fisheries Sub-Committee on Aquaculture (COFI:AQ). The report was based on 92 country reports and five thematic background studies.⁵ The country reports were 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*, a country report questionnaire containing 50 questions under eight chapter-headings and including data tables covering the status of AqGR by species.⁶
3. According to the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2023–2031, *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 Commission's Twenty-second Regular Session.⁷
4. Following the publication of the SoW AqGR-1, FAO developed the global information system AquaGRIS. AquaGRIS facilitates the collection and analysis of standardized, harmonized and reliable information on the status of conservation, sustainable use and development of aquaculture species, and their farmed types and genetic stocks. It will allow for considerable simplification of the reporting process for the components of SoW AqGR-2 related to the status of AqGR. Furthermore, the quality, accuracy and reliability of data collected via AquaGRIS will be improved compared to data collected for the SoW AqGR-1 due to the use of standardized terminology, including the newly established categories of farmed types of AqGR.
5. AquaGRIS will have the capacity to generate reports and indicators on the status of AqGR but does not collect data on the processes related to the management of AqGR. In order to monitor the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in relation to processes of AqGR management, a further data collection mechanism is proposed (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5), through a process indicator questionnaire (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5.Inf2). This process indicator questionnaire will be separate to AquaGRIS but will be presented to Members on a common platform and will utilize a user interface similar to that used for the data collection for AquaGRIS.
6. Following review of the monitoring system for the Global Plan of Action (CGRFA/WG-AqGR-5/24/5) by the Working Group, the data dissemination user interface of the AquaGRIS platform will be adapted to include the capacity to generate indicator reports at national, regional and global levels for both *resource* and *process indicators*.
7. In view of the development of these new and improved systems for gathering and reporting information on AqGR resources and on the processes related to management of AqGR, it is necessary to review the data gathering and analysing process for SoW AqGR-2. A simple repeat of the process followed for the SoW AqGR-1 would involve considerable duplication of reporting efforts and would

¹ CGRFA-11/07/Report, paragraph 61 and paragraph 62.

² CGRFA-13/11/Report

³ CGRFA-14/13/Report

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.4060/CA5256EN>

⁵ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb7951en>

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb7955en>

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb7903en>

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb7876en>

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cb6597en>

⁶ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/bp506e>

⁷ <https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/ca8345en>

not be in harmony with the new terminology used in AquaGRIS and in the process indicator questionnaire.

8. This document addresses the scope and structure of the SoW AqGR-2, proposes a new timeline and process for the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2, based on data collected through AquaGRIS and the process indicator questionnaire.

II. PROPOSED SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

9. 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) covers essentially, in a more defined, standardized and harmonized format, all information addressed by the country questionnaire used for the preparation of the SoW AqGR-1.

10. The data gathering via AquaGRIS and the process indicator questionnaire allow for considerable simplification of the data collection and analysis process for the SoW AqGR-2. It is thus proposed that the SoW AqGR-2 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 SoW AqGR-2 provide essentially the same information elements covered by the SoW AqGR-1 but with a shorter, more concise quantitative analysis.

11. In addition, it is proposed that, prior to preparation of the SoW AqGR-2, FAO generate national indicator reports for all countries that created national registries of AqGR in AquaGRIS and completed the process indicator questionnaire.

12. Further to the SoW AqGR-2 and the national indicator reports, FAO would also commission Thematic Background Studies on specific topics, as identified by the Working Group and endorsed by the Commission.

13. The SoW AqGR-2 would thus be a concise summary and analysis of data taken from:

- national resource indicator reports generated from data contained in AquaGRIS;
- national process indicator reports generated from process indicator questionnaire data; and
- Thematic Background Studies, as identified by the Working Group.

14. It is recognized that in modifying the data collection and reporting modality the direct comparison of quantitative data between SoW AqGR-1 and SoW AqGR-2 will not be possible and, thus, some decadal changes that may represent trends, may be lost. Whilst every effort should be made in relating data presented in the SoW AqGR-2 to similar data in SoW AqGR-1, it should be acknowledged that the quality, relevance and accuracy of data used in compiling SoW AqGR-2 will be greater due to the use of the new standardized and harmonised terminology in data collection resulting from the extensive consultation that has taken place since the first global assessment was conducted.

15. It is further recognized that there may be some information gaps related to information sourced for SoW AqGR-1 (based on the country report questionnaire) and that compiled through AquaGRIS and, particularly, from the process indicator questionnaire. It is thus further proposed that a limited number of questions be added to the process indicator questionnaire covering these information gaps.

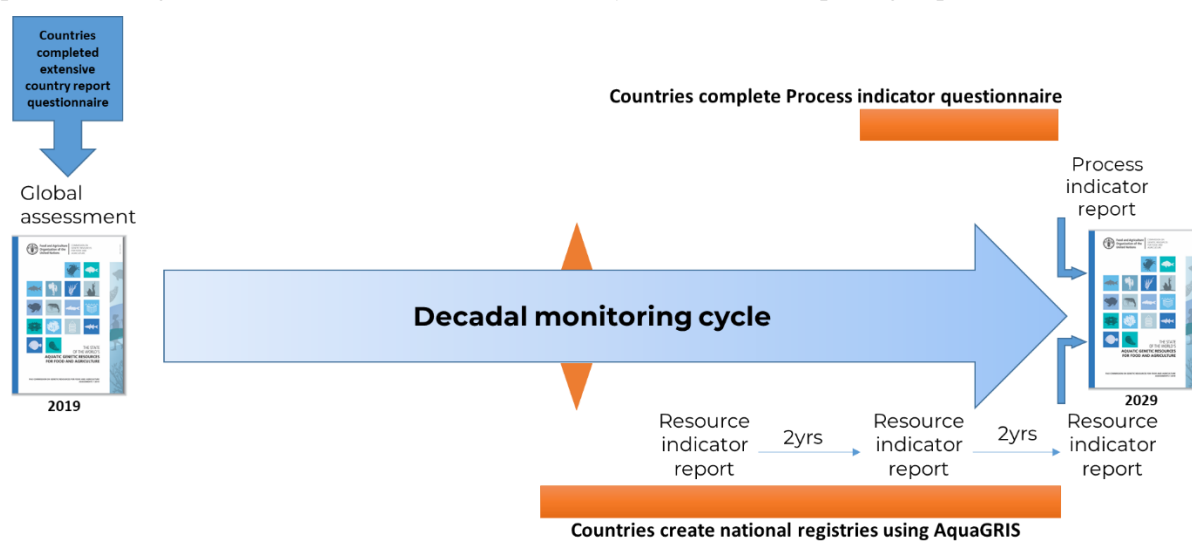
III. PREPARATORY PROCESS, TIMELINES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECOND REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S AQUATIC GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

16. A few countries have already initiated the preparation of national registries of their AqGR and all Members will be requested and supported by FAO to prepare such registries over the next four years. The creation of the initial national registry will represent a significant reporting burden, especially for large aquaculture producing countries. Once the national registry is created, Members

will be requested to update the national registry every two years, an exercise that will require a much smaller workload. 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 SoW AqGR-2. The proposed timeline for the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2 is shown in Annex 1 and illustrated in Figure 1.

17. The coverage and representativity of the SoW AqGR-2 will depend on the number of countries that have created national registries of AqGR using AquaGRIS and completed the process indicator questionnaire once it has been made available.

Figure 1. Decadal reporting timeline to produce the SoW AqGR-2 integrated with the indicator reporting process. Orange markers indicate the current decadal cycle and related reporting requirements.



IV. REQUIRED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

18. FAO's work on AqGR is included in the Division of Fisheries and Aquaculture's Blue Transformation Roadmap (*Sustainable aquaculture intensification and expansion satisfies global demand for aquatic food and distributes benefits equitably – Targets A2-A5*).⁸ 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),⁹ temporary support staff and financial resources for the organization of the Fifth Session of the Working Group. This level of support will be inadequate to deliver the full work programme on AqGR and, more specifically the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2 within the timeframe indicated in Annex 1.

19. The estimated extra-budgetary resources required for the preparation and publication of the SoW AqGR-2 are presented in Annex 2. Financial resources are required to support countries in the development of national registries of AqGR and for the completion of the process indicator questionnaire, and to cover costs associated with the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2 and the thematic background studies.

⁸ <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc0459en>

⁹ Noting that this position includes work on aquatic genetic resources but it is not exclusively dedicated to it.

V. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

20. The Working Group may wish to:
- i) review and revise, as needed, the country reporting process, reporting requirements and timeline for the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2, for consideration by the Commission at its next session.
21. Furthermore, the Working Group may wish to recommend that the Commission, at its next session:
- i) call upon countries to create national registries of AqGR using AquaGRIS;
 - ii) call upon FAO to support countries in the creation of national registries of AqGR using AquaGRIS;
 - iii) call upon countries to complete the process indicator questionnaire when requested by FAO; and
 - iv) urge donors to support the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2, taking note of the extrabudgetary resources required, as indicated in Annex 2.

ANNEX 1

Draft schedule for preparing *The Second Report on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
ITWG AqGR-5 considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicators and timeline for monitoring implementation of the Global Plan of Action; and proposal for preparation of SoW AqGR-2 						
CGRFA-20 agrees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on process and timeline for the preparation of the SoW AqGR-2 						
FAO finalizes process indicator questionnaire						
FAO develops detailed outline for SoW AqGR-2						
ITWG AqGR-6 considers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> first resource indicator reports; and draft outline for SoW AqGR-2. 						
CGRFA-21 agrees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline for SoW AqGR-2 						
Countries, with the support of FAO, create/update their national registries of their AqGR						
Countries complete process indicator questionnaire						
SoW AqGR-2 drafted based on data and indicator reports from AquaGRIS and completed process indicator questionnaire						
ITWG AqGR-7 reviews draft SoW AqGR-2						
CGRFA-22 considers draft SoW AqGR-2						
SoW AqGR-2 is published						

ANNEX 2

Estimated extra-budgetary resources 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 SoW AqGR-2	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 using AquaGRIS and complete the process indicator questionnaire	50 000	50 000		100 000
IT consultant supporting development of online version of 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 SoW AqGR-2	0	0	3 750	3 750
Copy editing of the in brief version of the SoW AqGR-2	0	0	500	500
Copy editing of 5 TBS	0	12 500	0	12 500
Layout design of SoW AqGR-2 in 6 languages			20 000	20 000
Layout design of in brief in 6 languages			4 000	4 000
Layout design of 5 TBS			6 000	6 000
Translation of SoW book in 6 languages			152 880	152 880
Translation of in brief in 6 languages			21 840	21 840
Launch of SoW AqGR-2			20 000	20 000
Indirect support costs (7%)				36 083
Total				551 553