FACILITATION WORKSHOP ON THE PREPARATION OF THE GLOBAL SECOND STATE OF THE WORLD’S ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES (SoW-AnGR) REPORT

FISH EAGLE INN, NAIVASHA, KENYA

28th – 31st FEBRUARY 2014

WORKSHOP REPORT
ACRONYMS

AnGR: Animal Genetic Resources
AU: African Union
AUC: African Union Commission
AU-IBAR: African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP: Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
DREA: Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
GPA: Global Plan of Action
ITWG: Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group
MS: Member States of AU
FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
NC: National Coordinator
REC: Regional Economic Community
RFP: Regional Focal Point
SoW-AnGR: State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources
1. INTRODUCTION
The African Union Commission (AUC) and the European Union (EU) signed a contribution agreement for the implementation of the project “Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources”. This Genetics project is to be implemented by the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and aims to strengthen the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalizing national and regional policies, legal and technical instruments. One of the strategies for the implementation of the Animal Genetic Project is to facilitate and fast-track the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for sustainable use of AnGR in Africa. During its 14th regular session, the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requested an update on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources (SoW-AnGR) to be presented in November 2014. Countries were therefore, invited to submit their reports to FAO no later than 31st January 2014 and at the same time update their Animal Genetic Resource Inventories by 30th April 2014. AU-IBAR, through the project, "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources" agreed to facilitate and provide technical support and backstopping to African MS to ensure that the continent submitted its reports on time.

2. BACKGROUND
Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) for food and agriculture in Africa are essential for food security, and contribute to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. Genetic improvement programs in Africa, by governments, non-governmental organizations, bilateral aid agencies, and the private sector, have favoured the use of exotic breeds for crossbreeding, upgrading, or replacement. These programs have mostly been implemented without clear policies, regulatory frameworks, strategic thinking or long-term vision and were mainly motivated by the need for rapid productivity gains resulting in indiscriminate, uncoordinated or uncontrolled crossbreeding activities. Moreover, the trans-boundary nature of the spatial distribution of livestock breeds calls for harmonized legal and technical frameworks for exploiting the genetic attributes of Africa’s livestock. Genetic resources are a global concern and of public interest that require global governance mechanisms.

Operating within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and in coherence with the Strategic Plan of the AUC Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA), AU-IBAR contributes to the initiation and promotion of policies and strategies that can significantly impact the development of the African rural economy and improve livelihoods through increasing animal resources production and productivity, ensuring food security and enhancing sustainable use and management of Africa’s natural resources. AU-IBAR has been mandated to lead the livestock sub sector of CAADP.

Therefore, AU-IBAR in its bid to fulfill its mandate has a new project “Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources” funded by the EU and AUC. The project’s objective is to strengthen the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalizing national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments that are crucial for the judicious
exploitation of AnGR. The project will strengthen the capacities of RECs and the end-users at community level to improve the utilization of AnGR and rural livelihoods through:

- Establishment of the status and trends of animal genetic resources in Africa.
- Development of Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR.
- Supporting and strengthening national and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives.
- Increasing knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction.

One of the project’s strategies is to facilitate and fast-track the implementation of the GPA for the sustainable use of AnGR in Africa for which the African continent is currently lagging behind. The International Community in 2007 adopted the Global Plan of Action (GPA) as the main strategy to ensure sustainable utilization of AnGR and halt their erosion. The GPA contains four Strategic Areas:

a) Characterization, inventory and monitoring of trends and associated risks
b) Sustainable use and development
(c) Conservation and
(d) Policies, institutions and capacity building.

During the Regional Inception Workshops held in November 2013 in Ouagadougou, Kigali and Gaborone, it was agreed that every effort should be made to ensure that African MS submit their Country Reports to FAO as per their commitment and requirement. National Coordinators made firm commitments and pledged to submit their draft Country Reports by the stipulated deadline. AU-IBAR, through the project, "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources" agreed to facilitate and provide technical support and backstopping to African MS to ensure that the continent submitted its reports on time. Therefore, a Facilitation Workshop was organized and held in Naivasha, Kenya to enable National Coordinators to finalize and submit their Country Reports.

**OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the Facilitation Workshop was:

- To assist African Member States prepare their Country Reports on AnGR, to contribute to the Second Report on the State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources.

The specific objectives of the workshop were:

1. To review the draft Country Reports with the National Coordinators (NCs).
2. To address, where possible, the constraints and challenges faced by the National Coordinators.
3. To provide technical support and assistance to National Coordinators in the preparation and submission of their respective Country Reports.

**WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS:**

Thirty four participants (National Coordinators or their representatives and National Focal Points representatives) from 32 African countries attended the Facilitation Workshop (Annex 1). The workshop was officially opened by the Acting Director of AU-IBAR, Dr. Bruce Mukanda (Senior Programmes and Project Officer) who warmly welcomed the participants and highlighted the task at hand. He emphasized on the expected outcomes of the workshop and the need for the National Coordinators to submit their reports on
time to show that Africa is committed to play its part in the global initiatives and programmes in animal genetic resources.

AU-IBAR project staff then presented the objectives, expected outcomes, agenda (Annex 2) and proposed methodology of the workshop. The proposed methodology was as follows:

1. Conduct a quick assessment on the Country Reports status, identify challenges and constraints in drafting the Country Reports.
2. Present an overview of their draft Country Reports for approximately 30 to 45 minutes per country in plenary followed by critical and constructive discussions.
3. Revision and finalization of their draft Country reports after incorporation of comments and suggestions made during the plenary session.
4. Review of improved draft Country Reports during final plenary session.
5. Submission of Country Reports to FAO by member states.

The participants were divided into two groups: Anglophone countries (Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) and Francophone countries (Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Mauritania, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Togo). Each group was assisted by two project staff members where assessments of the state of the respective Country Reports were carried out and the challenges faced by the NCs in the preparation of these reports identified. From the indications given by the NCs, some of the reports were at an advanced stage while others were not. It was proposed that the countries whose reports were well-advanced present in plenary and the whole group would sequentially go through the questions posed in the fillable PDF form provided by FAO. Questions in the questionnaire which were not clear or deemed to pose serious challenges when responding to were noted and referred later to FAO. After this exercise, NCs expressed confidence to complete the task of finalizing the reports. They proceeded to work on their reports and countries received assistance from the project team when required. National Coordinators also consulted and assisted each other when necessary.

During the Workshop, the team was also liaising with countries that were not present at the Workshop encouraging them to submit their reports on time. These countries included: Angola, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland and Western Sahara.

During the workshop, FAO was consulted for clarification of certain issues (submission of reports by National Coordinator representatives and/or newly elected NCs) and assistance in tackling of specific questions. By the end of the workshop, 30 countries had finalized and submitted their reports to FAO. However, two participating countries, Comoros and Guinea Bissau, were not able to submit their reports as they required advice and authorization from their Ministers responsible for animal resources. In total, 94% of the country reports of the respective countries were submitted to FAO.

In the final plenary discussions, National Coordinators were requested to provide feedback on the lessons learned and the challenges and constraints faced. Some questions and remarks raised were to be addressed
by the project during the implementation of its activities. AU-IBAR made a brief presentation of their workplan and activities outlined that addressed the issues raised.

**Issues raised:**
- Some National Coordinators had incomplete questionnaire templates acquired during the Inception Workshops.
- It was noted that there were some sections of the questionnaire which were not clear and it was agreed that AU-IBAR would seek clarification from FAO.
- Some African National Coordinators had not taken time to go through and comment on the questionnaire when it was circulated by FAO for scrutiny.
- The questionnaire did not cover some species commonly used in Africa as a source of food for example grass-cutters (Cane Rat). It was proposed that FAO expands the coverage of list of AnGR or allow additional species to be added to the questionnaire by the respondents.
- It was agreed that AU-IBAR requests FAO for an extension of the deadline to allow some of the African MS to submit their reports.

**General recommendations:**
An analysis of the recommendations made by the participants on what were the most pertinent issues to come out of the workshop showed the following:

- The need for National Coordinators to be continuously supported by AU-IBAR in terms of resources (financial, equipment e.g. computers) to be able to perform their tasks.
- Inventory and characterization of species and breeds should be a priority in African Member States.
- Management of AnGR must now be prioritized by incumbent governments.
- There is need for consultants hired by AU-IBAR to liaise with NCs while on assignment on AnGR related studies for better communication and if necessary, information sharing.
- The AU-IBAR project team should visit some MS to access and better appreciate countries’ initiatives on AnGR.
- AU-IBAR should continue to organize such forums where National Coordinators interact and exchange ideas on animal genetic resources.
- There is need to resuscitate Regional Focal Points (RFP) as this action would enable the regions to function effectively and in-sync concerning AnGR and cross-cutting issues.
- The issue of access to animal genetic resources and benefit sharing requires urgent action to arrest the movement of AnGR from South to North. AU-IBAR should take a lead in this.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Nouala reiterated that as a continent Africa needs to take this opportunity to have an exclusive African State of AnGR report that is representative of all the diverse breeds and their status. This would consist of a comprehensive analysis and compilation of all the 54 country reports submitted to FAO. He encouraged that Africa should kick start the process in preparation of the 8th Session of the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on AnGR to be held in Rome, Italy on the 26th – 28th November 2014. This would give an opportunity for Africa to have a unified and common position on AnGR issues.
ANNEX 1

2nd State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Preparation of Country Reports for submission to FAO

List of Participants / Liste des Participants

Naivasha, Kenya 29 – 31 January 2014

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ANNEX 2

AGENDA:

2nd State of the World’s Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture: Preparation of Country Reports for submission to FAO and Regional Inception Workshop (North Africa)

Tentative Agenda
(Naivasha)
29th – 31st January 2014

Day 1: Wednesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Person resource</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00</td>
<td>Registration of participants</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00</td>
<td>Opening remarks</td>
<td>AU-IBAR Director</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Session 1: Introduction to the finalization of the Country Reports</td>
<td>AU-IBAR/National Coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Presentation of the objectives, expected outcomes and methodology</td>
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<td>• Adoption of the Facilitation Agenda</td>
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<td>• Introductions</td>
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<td>Group photo</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-13:00</td>
<td>Regional Inception Workshop (North Africa)</td>
<td>North African Participants only</td>
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<td>• Presentation of the genetics project and implementation strategy</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<tr>
<td>13:00 – 14:00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-16:00</td>
<td>Break off into four groups <em>(Anglophone and Francophone)</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td>14:00-16:00</td>
<td><em>Session 2: Country Report Presentations</em></td>
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<td>– Quick assessment of status of the preparation of the draft Country Reports</td>
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<td>– Presentations of the draft Country Reports</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Comments and inputs</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.15-16.30</td>
<td>Health break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16:30-17:30</td>
<td><em>Session 2: Continued</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>– Presentations of the draft Country Reports</td>
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<td>– Comments and inputs</td>
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**Day 2: Thursday**

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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30</td>
<td><em>Session 2: Continued</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Presentations of the draft Country Reports</td>
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<td>– Comments and inputs</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Health break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-13:00</td>
<td><em>Session 3: Country Report reviews and amendments</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Work on the refinement/improvement/amendments of the draft Country Reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45 – 14:00</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>14.00-16.30</td>
<td><em>Session 3: Continued</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<td>Work on the refinement/improvement/amendments of the draft Country Reports</td>
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<td>16:00-16.30</td>
<td>Health break</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.30-17.30</td>
<td><em>Session 3: Continued</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Work on the refinement/improvement/amendments of the draft Country Reports</td>
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**Day 3: Friday**

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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:00</td>
<td><em>Session 4: Final compilation of the draft report</em></td>
<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Presentations of the draft Country Reports :Plenary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>Health break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-12:45</td>
<td><strong>Session 4: Continued</strong></td>
<td>Presentations of the draft Country Reports: Plenary</td>
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<td>National Coordinators</td>
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<td>12:45-14:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>14:00-16:00</td>
<td><strong>Session 5: Wrap up and closure</strong></td>
<td>Feedback from participants;</td>
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<td>• Recommendations</td>
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<td>End of Workshop</td>
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<td>16:00-16:30</td>
<td>Tea break</td>
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**Day 4: Saturday**

9:00am: *Departure to Nairobi*
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