Report on the meeting of the Secretariats of Sub-Regional Focal Points 15 - 16 July 2014 AU-IBAR, Kenya



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Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources

Report on the meeting of the Secretariats of Sub-Regional Focal Points

AU-IBAR, Nairobi, Kenya 15th to 16th July 2014

July 2014

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Acronyms

AAGRIS African Animal Genetic Resources Information System

AnGR: Animal Genetic Resources

ASARECA Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa

AU: African Union

AU-IBAR: African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

CBD: Convention on Biological Diversity
CBO Community-based Organization

CCARDESA Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern

Africa

CGRFA: Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

CIRDES Chercheur au Centre International de Recherche-Développement sur l'Elevage

en zone Subhumide

CORAF/WECARD Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement

Agricoles/ Conference of the agricultural research leaders in West and Central Africa/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research Development

DAD-IS: Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System

ECCAS Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

GA General Assembly
GDP Gross Domestic Product

GPA Global Plan of Action
GPA: Global Plan of Action

ILRI International Livestock Research Institute

INRAA: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie

ISC Interim Steering Committee

ITWG-AnGR: Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources

LiDeSa Livestock Development Strategy

LIMS Livestock Information Management System

LTC Livestock Technical Committee (SADC)

MoA Memorandum of Agreement

MS: Member States

NFP: National Focal Points

NGO Non-Governmental Organization
NSAP: National Strategies and Action Plan

PANVAC Pan African Veterinarian Vaccine Centre

PROGEBE Regional Project on Sustainable Management of Endemic Ruminant Livestock in

West Africa

REC Regional Economic Community
REC: Regional Economic Communities

S-RFP: Sub-Regional Focal Point

TORS Terms of Reference

Acknowledgements

AU-IBAR wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research Development (CORAF/WECARD) and Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie (INRAA) for accepting our invitation to participate in this very important meeting.

AU-IBAR appreciates the sharing of knowledge and information as well as the constructive contribution by the Coordinators of the Secretariats within the host institutions during the meeting.

Executive Summary

A meeting was held on 15th and 16th July 2014 at the AU-IBAR offices in Nairobi, to strengthen the capacity of Sub-Regional Focal Points to implement work programmes on AnGR. The specific objectives of the meeting were to:

- discuss roles and responsibilities of Interim Steering Committees, Secretariats & Steering Committees;
- discuss roles and responsibilities of Regional Coordinators within the Secretariats;
- assess the progress made since the establishment of the ISC/S-RFPs (East & Southern)/(North Africa);
- discuss the challenges faced by the ISC/S-RFP;
- validate the Work Plans of the ISC/S-RFPs including the budgets;
- discuss and agree on a road map for the establishment of the Regional Focal Point for Africa;
- agree on the structure of the Regional Focal Point for Africa;
- launch the process of the establishment of the Regional Focal Point for Africa.

The Coordinators of the Secretariats of the host institutions for the S-RFP for East Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), Southern Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), Northern Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique d'Algérie (INRAA) and West and Central Africa Conseil Ouest et Centre Africain pour la Recherche et le Développement Agricoles/West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research Development (CORAF/WECARD) together with the project team members participated in the meeting. Dr Nouala officially opened the meeting and highlighted the importance of S-RFPs in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Coordinators of the Secretariats presented the progress they had made since the regional workshops that were held to initiate the process of the establishment/strengthening of S-RFPs. The meeting discussed the proposed work plans and identified the priority activities to be conducted by the end of 2014. These included conducting General Assemblies to formally establish the S-RFPs for the various regions as well as first Steering Committee meetings. These workshops will be held back-to-back to save on costs. Estimated budgets for these activities were developed. The meeting then discussed the establishment of the Regional Focal Point for Africa and it was unanimously agreed that AU-IBAR is the continental institution mandated with the development of animal resources and would be the Secretariat of this focal point. A structure, membership and roadmap for the Regional Focal Point was developed and agreed to by the participants. Finally, it was agreed that; (i) a Communique on the proposal that AU-IBAR becomes the Regional Focal Point for Africa on AnGR would be issued; (ii) draft TORs for the Regional Focal Point and specifically for the Steering Committee; the Secretariat and the Regional Coordinator will be developed; (iii) draft MoAs between AU-IBAR and ASARECA, CCARDESA, INRAA and CORAF/WECARD with activities for the duration of the project will be produced; (iv) agree on specific activities that can be conducted by the S-RFPs, for example, on regional cooperation; development of database/information system like for Southern Africa (LIMS); (v) agree on minimum financial requirements (budget) for the S-RFPs.

Background

The proper management and development of animal genetic resources (AnGR) is a priority for many African countries where livestock production constitutes an important component of the agricultural economy contributing in some cases, up to 30% to agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Therefore, every effort should be expended to ensure that African AnGR are properly conserved and utilized for the benefit of posterity. In Africa, many of the AnGR have a trans-boundary nature making it imperative that neighbouring countries cooperate and develop collaborative initiatives on AnGR to ensure that there are harmonized and coordinated approaches to the sustainable utilization and conservation of these valuable resources. The Global Plan of Action (GPA) for AnGR underlines the importance of sustainable utilization and conservation of AnGR for the development of livestock production to meet current and future needs. Consequently, the GPA highlights the importance of institutions such as Regional Focal Points (RFP) and regional networks. Africa has made efforts to establish and strengthen Regional Focal Points for AnGR. The key tasks of existing Regional Focal Points include:

- building collaborative partnerships and facilitating regional cooperation,
- coordinating regional efforts in AnGR management,
- facilitating the exchange of information,
- promoting technical cooperation, training and research,
- providing technical assistance and leadership;
- developing projects aimed at enhancing the use, development and conservation of AnGR;
- facilitating and maintaining communication among National Focal Points.

The process of establishing and/or strengthening of Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) for the management of AnGR in Africa was initiated in East, Southern and North Africa. Interim Steering Committees have been established in East and Southern Africa while in North Africa, the region agreed to establish a substantive S-RFP. This was done through the conduct of regional workshops to initiate the establishment of these institutions.

For East Africa, an Interim Steering Committee (ISC) was elected and established comprising National Coordinators of Kenya (Chair), Ethiopia (Vice-chair), ASARECA (Secretary), Rwanda and Sudan (Committee members). A roadmap with priority activities for the Interim Steering Committee with timelines and responsibilities were developed. The formal establishment of the S-RFP for East Africa was foreseen by September 2014. ASARECA was appointed as the Host Institution for the S-RFP for East Africa. On the basis of a Note Verbal by AU-IBAR, ASARECA officially accepted the appointment and have nominated an Interim Sub-Regional Coordinator.

Similar to East Africa, for Southern Africa, the structure agreed upon for the governance of the S-RFP for that region comprised a Secretariat, a Sub-Regional Coordinator, a Steering Committee and Specific Task Forces. An Interim Steering Committee with Zambia (Chair), Namibia (Vice Chair), Malawi and Mozambique (Committee Members) and CCARDESA (Secretary) was elected to guide the process leading to the establishment of the substantive Steering Committee by August or September 2014. A roadmap with timelines and responsibilities was developed. CCARDESA was appointed as the Host

Institution for the S-RFP for Southern Africa. CCARDESA officially accepted the role following the Letter of request by AU-IBAR and has appointed a Sub-Regional Coordinator. The first planning meeting of the ISC was held in May 2014 on the side-lines of the General Assembly of CCARDESA.

In North Africa, the five Member States of that region (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia) met at a workshop organized by AU-IBAR and initiated the process of establishing the S-RFP for the region. The meeting agreed Algeria through INRAA would host the Sub-Regional Focal Point for North Africa for the next 5 years. A road map was developed with the anticipation that the substantive Steering Committee of the S-RFP for North Africa would be established by November 2014. The Director-General of INRAA was mandated to appoint a Sub-Regional Coordinator, and initiate the process of establishing a Steering Committee. The S-RFP will consider the priority activities on AnGR identified and suggested at the meeting.

For West and Central Africa, in 2011 a joint Sub-Regional Focal Point for West and Central Africa was established after a workshop organized by FAO in collaboration with the Regional Project on Sustainable Management of Endemic Ruminant Livestock in West Africa (PROGEBE) in March 2010 in Dakar, Senegal where it was decided to establish a single focal point covering both West and Central Africa. An Interim Steering Committee was created and working on an agreed road map, organized ediscussions and physical meetings to discuss the nature, structure, funding, promotion and establishment process of the focal point, among many other activities. In June 2011 in Libreville, Gabon a workshop culminated with the adoption of the "Libreville Declaration" which formally established the S-RFP for West and Central Africa. However, since the establishment of the S-RFP for West and Central Africa some institutional flaws in this S-RFP were observed, especially the lack of a regional institution appointed as Host Institution. These challenges were not foreseen during the establishment in 2011. A regional meeting is planned for August 2014 to ensure that the S-RFP serves the purpose for which it was originally created.

Therefore, the project team held a Technical Meeting with Coordinators of the Secretariats of host institutions of Eastern, Southern, Northern Western and Central Africa at the AU-IBAR offices on 15 and 16 July 2014 to ensure that S-RFPs meet the deadlines mentioned in the roadmaps. The project team also wanted to provide secretarial support to the Interim Steering Committees of the S-RFPs, in preparation of the Project Steering Committee meeting planned for 17 July 2014. The technical meeting had the following objectives:

- To discuss roles and responsibilities of Interim Steering Committees, Secretariats & Steering Committees;
- To discuss roles and responsibilities of Regional Coordinators within the Secretariats;
- To assess the progress made since the establishment of the ISC/S-RFPs (East & Southern)/(North Africa);
- To discuss the challenges faced by the ISC/S-RFP;
- To validate the Work Plans of the ISC/S-RFPs including the budgets;
- To discuss and agree on a road map for the establishment of the Regional Focal Point for Africa;
- To agree on the structure of the Regional Focal Point for Africa;

• To launch the process of the establishment of the Regional Focal Point for Africa.

Meeting Proceedings

Session 1: Opening

Speech 1: Dr. Simplice Nouala (AU-IBAR)

Dr. Nouala warmly welcomed the participants to AU-IBAR. In his introduction, he reiterated the importance of S-RFPs in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA), the co-ordination of sub regional activities including knowledge management and information sharing. He also emphasized the need for the S-RFP to strategically position themselves and take up their crucial role in steering their sub-regions towards the great cause and to shy away from the focus often placed on budgetary implications. He also stressed the strategy of using sub-regional research and development organizations which have a mandate in all the Member States in the various regions, they represent as the host institutions for S-RFPs. He also announced that CCARDESA and ASARECA had officially accepted to host the S-RFPs for Southern and East Africa, respectively.

The objectives of the meeting and the proposed agenda (Annex 1) were presented to the participants (Annex 2). The agenda was adopted and noted that flexibility would be exercised where and if necessary. The participants officially introduced themselves.

Session 2: Progress made in the establishment of the S-RFPs

In this session, the Coordinators of the host institutions were asked to present the progress made since the initiation of the process of establishment of S-RFPs.

ASARECA (Dr. Jean Ndikumana)

Dr Ndikumana announced that the Executive Director of ASARECA had officially nominated him as the (Interim) Regional Coordinator for the S-RFP for East Africa. He also reported that the nomination of ASARECA as the host institution for the S-RFP for East Africa was appropriate as ASARECA was already implementing some projects of AnGR such as the characterization of small-stock with the support and collaboration of ILRI and FAO. Dr Ndikumana however, noted that in terms of organizational capacity for the S-RFP, ASARECA would still need to improve (and put in place the necessary structures). ASARECA was currently dependent on Multi-Donor Trust Fund which is now in Operational Plan II (2014-2018). He emphasised that the institution was ready to play its role as the Secretariat of the S-RFP for East Africa but would require financial support.

CCARDESA (Dr. Baitsi Podisi)

Dr Podisi noted that the Livestock Technical Committee of SADC has various sub-committees, one of which is particularly focusing on AnGR. He acknowledged that in terms of staffing, CCARDESA was still thin on the ground. Dr Podisi is also waiting to be officially unveiled as the Sub-Regional Coordinator

for the S-RFP for Southern Africa. He reported that the Interim Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Southern Africa held a planning meeting on the side-lines of the CCARDESA General Assembly in May 2014. At that meeting which was attended by members of the ISC from Zambia, Namibia and Mozambique, ILRI, AU-IBAR as well as an invited contingent from the Republic of South Africa. The meeting drafted the Terms of Reference (TORs) of the Steering Committee using the one developed for the S-RFP for West and Central Africa. The ISC drafted the TORs to suit the needs of the region. The meeting also agreed to hold the General Assembly to establish the substantive S-RFP for Southern Africa and this is planned for September 2014. An estimated 50 participants are expected at the GA and the ISC would require some initial funding to conduct this meeting. Dr Podisi reported that the Livestock Information Management System (LIMS) at SADC is currently being used mainly for animal disease information and the other modules of the systems are not being populated. The Southern African region is highly interested in animal performance recording schemes which already exist in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and to some extent, Botswana. However, the other countries in the region have not yet established these schemes. The region also has some transboundary breeds such as the Nguni cattle which entails regional cooperation on the management of such AnGR. He noted that there was need to identify gaps in national and regional policies and establish solutions. A positive issue raised was the endorsement by the Livestock Technical Committee (LTC) of the nomination of CCARDESA as the regional host institution of the S-RFP for Southern Africa.

INRAA (Dr Abdelfettah Mourad)

Dr Mourad reported that during the workshop held in Algiers in June 2014, his institution, INRAA was elected by the five regional countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia) to host the S-RFP for North Africa. He reported that INRAA was planning to hold a General Assembly by October 2014 where members of the Steering Committee will be elected to serve for the next 5 years. Dr Mourad also announced that the General-Director of INRAA had officially nominated him as the Coordinator for the S-RFP for Northern Africa.

CORAF/WECARD (Dr Hamade Kagone)

Dr Kagone, as a Coordinator appointed by CORAF/WECARD, has participated in various regional workshops organized by AU-IBAR (Ouagadougou and Kampala). Dr Kagone stated that CORAF is very willing to host the S-RFP for West and Central Africa but need more information, particularly on how this will be aligned to its core functions as a sub-regional research and development organization.

General Discussion:

- It was mentioned that there is a workshop planned to be held in N'Djamena, Chad in August, to discuss primarily the issue of the S-RFP for West and Central Africa. A decision on whether the two regions will continue to have one S-RFP or create two separate ones is expected to be made at this important workshop. It is envisaged that if CORAF/WECARD accepts to host the S-RFP and if the RECs involved (ECOWAS and ECCAS) have no objection, then the current arrangement of a joint S-RFP would continue with CORAF as the host institution.
- During the discussion it also became apparent that for the proposed host institutions, the issue of budget/finance is most critical. However, it was also stressed that regions should first work

- out how they should coordinate AnGR activities, and sub-regional R&D institutions are best suited for this and how the process should be initiated. Thereafter, the issue of resource mobilization can be discussed.
- Planned activities in the first six months should include strategies to mobilize resources. The issue of upcoming global events such as the ITWG and the CGRFA was also discussed and it was stressed that Africa should forge common positions prior to attending this global event.

Session 3: Development of Work Plans

A presentation was made by AU-IBAR on the roles and responsibilities of Focal Points at the various levels. The key points in the presentation included:

- That the various levels of focal points are the Global (FAO), Regional (Continental) and National (Countries);
- That National Focal Points (NFP) are institutions nominated by their governments.

The roles of the National Focal Points are to:

- o oversee management of national AnGR to initiate and coordinate country activities and implementation of National Strategies and Action Plans (NSAP) on AnGR; interface with AnGR stakeholders; cooperate with Regional and Global Focal Points;
- o coordinate development of NSAPs, national policies on livestock and AnGR;
- o coordinate inventories and monitoring of trends of AnGR;
- develop communication linkages with various stakeholders, including other Ministries, NFP for CBD;
- o coordinate stakeholders in AnGR and raise awareness on AnGR;
- o update national database on AnGR and report to the global DAD-IS;
- o contribute to the work of the ITWG-AnGR, CGRFA and CBD.

The roles of the National Coordinators were also discussed, including to:

- serve as the official contact points for the Global Focal Point (FAO);
- monitor data on breeds and reporting into DAD-IS;
- evaluate, coordinate and monitor national AnGR projects and initiate research;
- promote networking nationally and internationally and make information available through publications and presentations;
- follow international activities related to AnGR.

Regional Focal Points (RFP) are regional institutions with the roles including to:

- ensure active national/regional networking;
- provide technical assistance in project design;
- support communication and awareness raising;
- strengthen the position and capacity of NFPs;
- mobilize financial resources.

A general discussion ensued after the presentation and the Secretariats sought some clarifications on the operational structure and this was duly provided. It was also stressed that RECs as well as Member States, are expected to be in the Steering Committees. Member States would be represented by National Coordinators. There was also a suggestion that information systems like the LIMS for SADC could be proliferated to other African regions. Dr Mbole-Kariuki was tasked to oversee the feasibility. It was stressed that every effort should be made to ensure that Africa does not continue to lose its AnGR, such as the Boran cattle to the outside world. The establishment or strengthening of regional gene banks was also discussed. It was reported that an initial analysis of the gene banks assessed by the project team was conducted although the final decision on which gene banks could be supported to serve as regional facilities is still pending. There was general consensus that PANVAC was the natural choice to serve as the continental back-up gene bank for all the AU Member States.

The project team together with the secretariats then worked through the possible activities (Work Plans) which could be carried out by the S-RFPs until the end of the year. The following were identified as key issues to be addressed by December 2014:

- Organize the General Assembly for the establishment of the respective S-RFPs;
- Provide secretarial support to the Steering Committee of the S-RFP;
- Execute decisions and support projects decided on by the Steering Committee;
- Support the Working Groups, Task Forces and Ad hoc actions;
- Responsibility for the financial management of the S-RFP budget;
- Mobilise financial resources;
- Provide technical and financial reports on a regular basis;
- Facilitate communication among African NFPs;
- Collect relevant information on AnGR among African NFPs and feed into the proposed African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).

Of these issues, secretariats were asked to prioritize the key ones which have to be conducted and to provide tentative budgets for the activities. The key issues were identified as:

- Organize the General Assembly for each S-RFP,
- Convene the first Steering Committee meetings,
- Provide the day to day management of the Secretariat.

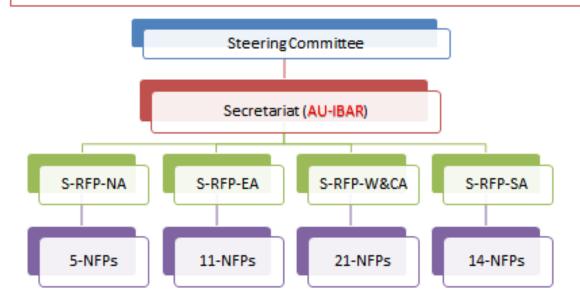
The estimated budgets for the S-RFPs are shown in the Annex 3.

Session 4: Operational arrangements

Establishment of an African Regional Focal Point for AnGR

The meeting then discussed the establishment of the Regional Focal Point for Africa. The need for the establishment of the Regional Focal Point was unanimously agreed and that this should be domiciled at AU-IBAR as the Secretariat of the institution. The participants deliberated and agreed to the structure of the Regional Focal Point for Africa. The proposed structure is indicated below.

Structure of the RFP



Steering Committee

The following stakeholders were proposed to constitute the Steering Committee:

- AU-IBAR (Secretariat)
- Donors (EU)
- FAO
- Farmers Associations
- Research institutions
- Universities/ Training institutions
- NGOs/CBOs
- Private sector
- Representatives of S-RFP (Secretariats and Chairpersons of SC)
- 5 AU Member States (preferably current members of the ITWG)
- Representatives of the 8 RECs

A road map for the establishment of the Africa Regional Focal Point was discussed and proposed as shown below:

Activity	Deadline	Responsible
Develop TORs of African AnGR Focal Point (Secretariat,	31 August 2014	AU-IBAR
Coordinator, SC & GA)		
Write to Institutions and Countries to inform them on the	30 September 2014	AU-IBAR
Proposal & share TORs		
Request nomination of representatives	30 September 2014	AU-IBAR
Organise the General Assembly and Steering Committee	Before CGRFA meeting	AU-IBAR
meetings (preferably back-to-back with LiDeSa continental	in January 2015	
workshop)		

Conclusions / Way Forward

- Share the outcomes of the current technical meeting of the Secretariats of S-RFPs at the up-coming Project Steering Committee meeting;
- Issue a Communique on the proposal that AU-IBAR becomes the Regional Focal Point for Africa on AnGR;
- Draft TORs for the Regional Focal Point and specifically for the Steering Committee; the Secretariat and the Regional Coordinator;
- Draft Memorandums of Agreement (MoAs) between AU-IBAR and ASARECA, CCARDESA, INRAA and CORAF/WECARD with activities for the duration of the project;
- Agree on specific activities that can be conducted by the S-RFPs, for example, on regional cooperation; development of database/information system like for Southern Africa (LIMS)Agree on minimum financial requirements (budget) for the S-RFPs;
- Share the list of National Coordinators and National Focal Points with the Secretariats of the S-RFPs.

Annexes

- a) Agenda.
- b) List of participants.
- c) Budgets.

Annex 1: Agenda

Proposed Agenda for the Planning meeting with the Secretariats of the Sub-regional Focal Points for Eastern, Southern, West & Central and Northern Africa

Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources

15th & 16th July 2014

Time	Activities	Responsible				
Day 1						
	Session 1: Opening					
9:00 - 9:30	 Welcome & Opening remarks Objectives of the meeting Introduction of the participants Adoption of the Agenda 	Project team				
	Session 2: Progress made in the Establishment of the S-RFP					
9:30-10:30	Assessment of the progresses made since the establishment of the secretariats (ASARECA, CCARDESA, CORAF/WECARD, INRAA)	Focal Points				
10:30-10:45	Health & Coffee Break and group photo	All				
	Session 3: Development of workplans					
10:45-11:30	Presentations on (Overview of) the Role and Functions of: - National Focal Points, - Sub-Regional focal points, - Secretariat of the S-RFP (Interim period & Permanent Period) Clarification Discussions	Project team				
11:30-13:00	Development of the individual workplans of the secretariats including the budget	Focal Points				
13:15-14:15	Lunch	All				
14:00-16:00	Development of the individual workplans of the secretariats including the budget	Focal Points				
16:00-16:15	Health & Coffee Break	All				
16:15-17:00	Discussions	All				
17:00	Closure					
	Day 2					
	Session 4: Operational arrangements					
9:00 - 12:45	Discuss on the Agenda for the establishment of an African Focal Point: - Structure, - Road Map/ Way forward	All				
12:45 - 13:00	AOB and Closure					
13:00	Lunch	All				

Annex 2: List of Participants

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Annex 3: Activities and estimated budgets for the S-RFPs up to December 2014

Activity	ASARECA	CCARDESA	CORAF/WECARD	INRAA	TOTAL
Organize the General Assembly:					
Prepare working docs, translation	90,000.00	90,000.00	144,000.00	60,000.00	384,000.00
for GA & SC and Convene the					
meeting					
Prepare GA proceedings & report	5,000.00	10,000.00	4,000.00		19,000.00
on recommendations					
Give secretarial support to the					
Steering Committee of the RFP:					
Convene SC meetings	15,000.00	15,000.00	23,000.00	11,000.00	64,000.00
Day to day	34,000.00	38,000.00	49,000.00	19,000.00	140,000.00
Management/Operational costs of					
the Secretariat					
TOTAL	144,000.00	153,000.00	220,000.00	90,000.00	607,000.00

The estimates here above are subject to discussions, adjustments and approval according to budget availability under the activity line.

The procedures for implementation will be following the AU-IBAR Policy with regard to Sub-grantees.