

Regional Workshop for the Strengthening of Capacities for the Management of Animal Genetic Resources in Eastern Africa

11 - 12 December 2014 – Kampala, UGANDA





Regional workshop for the Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Eastern Africa

**Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, Uganda,
11 - 12 December 2014**

December 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
AUC:	African Union Commission
AU-IBAR:	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP:	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
COMESA:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC:	East African Community
EAPDA:	Ethiopian Agro & Pastoralist Development Association
ESADA:	East and Southern Dairy Association
EU:	European Union
FAnGR:	Farm Animal Genetic Resources
FAO:	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
GA:	General Assembly
GAP:	Global Action Plan
HIP:	Heifer International Project
IGAD:	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ILRI:	International Livestock Research Institute
NAC:	National Advisory Committee
NC:	National Coordinators
NAP:	National Action Plan
NFP:	National Focal Points
MS:	Member States
PENHA:	Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa
RECs:	Regional Economic Communities
RUFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SC:	Steering Committee
S-RFP:	Sub-regional focal point
TBBPs:	Trans-boundary Breed Populations

Acknowledgements

The Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) would like to express its sincere gratitude to the government of the Republic of Uganda, to the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA), to the national coordinators, to the focal points of the AU-IBAR Genetics Project and to all the stakeholders who participated actively in this important workshop. AU-IBAR appreciates the sharing of knowledge and information as well as the constructive contribution of all the participants to the deliberations during the workshop. This greatly helped the workshop achieve its objectives, thereby producing considerable progress in the establishment of sub-regional structures for the management of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR), in particular the sub-regional focal point for Eastern Africa.

Sincere thanks to the European Union and the African Union Commission for their financial support through this project.

Summary

From 11th to 12th December 2014, AU-IBAR in collaboration with ASARECA organized a joint regional workshop on ***“Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Eastern Africa”***. The workshop was held in Kampala, Uganda, within the framework of the Genetics Project ***“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources”*** funded by EU and AUC and implemented by the AU-IBAR.

The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Eastern African region to enhance the management of AnGR through better regional coordination and networking, and specifically to:

- Validate the proposed governance structure and Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Eastern Africa;
- Conduct the election of members of the Steering Committee;
- Propose mechanisms for the sustainability of the S-RPF;
- Review the status of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks on the use of AnGR in Eastern Africa;
- Initiate discussions on the development of national and regional guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of policies for crossbreeding and in situ and ex situ conservation;
- Engage in discussions on procedures for the operation of regional gene bank(s);
- Discuss the preliminary results for the establishment of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).
- Present and discuss the Table of Content in view of the preparation of the State of AnGR in Africa, and
- Provide a feedback to the NC on the participation of Africa to the 8th meeting of the ITWG.

The workshop brought together participants from 10 Member states of Eastern Africa region (Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), RECs (EAC, IGAD and COMESA), Sub-Regional and International Research Organizations (ASARECA, ILRI), International Institutions (FAO), Civil Society and non-state Organizations (Heifer International, PENHA/EAPDA, Dairy Goat association of Kenya), Universities (Makerere University, RUFORUM) and the private sector (Agribusiness -TechnoServe).

During the workshop consisting mainly in a General Assembly, various presentations were made and the participants mobilised in group work and in plenary sessions on specific themes for their involvement and contributions. The two days of deliberations culminated in the following achievements:

- a. Following the review and validation of the criteria for the Steering Committee and the membership of the General Assembly, 16 members were elected to the Steering Committee of the S-RFP. 5 Member States comprising Kenya (Chair), Uganda (1st Vice-chair), Ethiopia (2nd Vice-chair), Burundi (member) and Sudan (member); ASARECA (Secretariat), 3 RECs (EAC, IGAD, COMESA), AU-IBAR, University and training institutions (RUFORUM), Private sector (ESADA), Producers both Farmers and Pastoralists (PENHA) and 3 Ex-officio (FAO, ILRI, HIP).
- b. Participants agreed to establish a Bureau of the SC composed of a chairperson, 2 vice-chairs and the secretary. They recommended the tenure of the bureau be for two years after which the 1st vice-chair will take over the chairmanship and the second vice-chair move to 1st vice-chair; a new second vice-chair will be elected. The first bureau is composed of Kenya (Chair), Uganda (1st Vice-chair), Ethiopia (2nd Vice-chair) and ASARECA (Secretariat).
- c. Priorities to be addressed were identified including: - ToRs of the Steering Committee - Harmonization of policies on the management of AnGR in the region - Characterization and conservation of AnGR, particularly transboundary breeds - AAGRIS activities at National and Sub-Regional levels to be based on recommendations from the GA - Development of proposals for fundraising, through taskforces with support from AU-IBAR and RECs - Sensitization of MS on AnGR and the Sustainability of the S-RFP.
- d. Comments were also made on a proposed Table of content in view of the preparation of the document on ***“The State of Animal Genetic resources in Africa”***.

- e. The Needs assessment report for the development of AAGRIS was validated. The study had an objective of conducting a comprehensive needs assessment on AnGR data and information requirements by various stakeholders (policy makers, breeders and farmers associations, scientist, scholars, development practitioners, etc.).

From the various discussions the following recommendations were made at the end of the General Assembly:

At national level:

- AnGR characterization, conservation and utilization should primarily be funded by national governments by allocating adequate resources to establish National Advisory Committees (NAC) and develop National Action Plans (NAPs) aligned to the GPA. The funding of activities for the GPA should be included in National Budgets.
- NACs should be established or strengthened where they exist. This should be followed by the implementation of the NAPs.
- Through the Genetics project, AU-IBAR should support countries to establish NACs as it has already invited countries to submit their funding requests to that effect.
- AU-IBAR should write country specific letters to MS sensitizing them to support their AnGR activities and commending efforts already made.
- The RECs should participate in sensitizing countries to support AnGR activities at country level through the various forums they organize. AU-IBAR should also sensitize countries during project-related visits.
- Consideration should be made in relation to the sustainability and maintenance of AAGRIS at national level, with AU-IBAR mandated to ensure appropriate training is undertaken to ensure maximum utilization of the new information system. The Information system should be developed with the primary drive of it being a decision making tool. The issue of data value chain must be a priority to ensure accurate and usable data is collected from the national level.

At Sub-regional level:

- AU-IBAR should make funds available to the SC for its operations, such as proposal development for submission to donors to sustain S-RFP. The funding will be based on the Workplan developed by the SC at its first meeting planned for January or early February 2015.
- The RECs (IGAD, EAC and COMESA) expressed commitment to support proposals to be developed for submission to potential donors for funding. The proposals will be approved by the SC and submitted by its Bureau.
- The S-RFP should ensure that HR and facilities existing in some countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda) are made available for use by other countries.
- The minutes from this meeting should be shared with NFPs to ensure that each country implements the recommendations.
- The SC should collaborate with AU-IBAR to develop a policy brief to be used for sensitization of MS.

As way forward:

- AU-IBAR is to undertake further analysis of challenges of the current livestock databases and determine the appropriate interventions, to avoid creating an information system which will be underutilized. Considerations to be made on the necessary modules needed to avoid duplication.
- The next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to late January or early February 2015 to develop the workplan and budget, with the facilitation by AU-IBAR to kick-start the SC activities as well as the work of NACs at country level;
- The GA emphasized that priority should be given to measures that promote conservation of AnGR in their natural environments. However, gene banking was necessary as a back-up strategy in case live populations are lost due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, AU-IBAR was tasked with re-engaging

the RECs regarding gene banking and to learn from the experience on the operation of the Regional Gene bank for plants.

- It is suggested the next General Assembly be held in 2015 in the Republic of Sudan.

Introduction and Background

Sustainable use, development and conservation of Africa's livestock genetic resources are of vital importance to agriculture, food production, rural development and the environment. In recognition of the need to develop an effective framework for the management of African animal genetic resources and to address the threat of genetic erosion, AU-IBAR has developed a project on Animal Genetic Resources. The project, aims at strengthening the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalising national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments that are crucial for judicious exploitation of AnGR.

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.

In the framework to mainstream livestock in the CAADP pillars developed by AU-IBAR, sustainable utilisation of AnGR is a Priority Area under Pillars 3 on food security and 4 on research and information dissemination based on the following strategies: characterization of indigenous AnGR, data collection and analysis, development of guidelines for protection and promotion of endangered animal breeds, facilitating and coordinating the setting up and maintenance of gene banks, development of guidelines and policies for harmonization, selection, regulation, intellectual property rights and transfer of new genetic technologies and products, molecular genetics of resistance to diseases, adaptation to environmental stress, development of technologies for multiplication, conservation and preservation of AnGR.

The overall strategy of the project is to facilitate and fast track the implementation of the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for sustainable use of AnGR in Africa for which the continent is lagging behind. The basis for the sustainable conservation and utilization of AnGR mainly lies in the existence of comprehensive legal and regulatory frameworks in each country and at regional level to govern breed utilization, including breed improvement and exchange of genetic materials and, at the same time, assure and define the role and responsibility of each stakeholder.

The Genetics project took up the important task of assisting the AU Member States with the design of legal and regulatory frameworks and harmonizing policy frameworks at regional level. It has also initiated the coordination and the setting up and maintenance of gene banks across the continent. In terms of institutional framework, the project has initiated the establishment of institutions to strengthen the national and regional focal points for AnGR set up under the FAO, Institutional Framework for the Management of AnGR, in all regions of Africa. It was agreed that these institutional structures should be put in place before the end of 2014. In terms of database development, the project has also initiated the development of the AAGRIS in the ARIS database as its AnGR component integrating DAD-IS and DAGRIS.

In the above regard a workshop was organized on ***“Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Eastern Africa”*** at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, Uganda, on 11th and 12th December 2014. To achieve establish a regional institution to serve as a substantive Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources in East Africa, a General Assembly (GA) is an ideal opportunity to gather key the stakeholders to deliberate on key issues pertaining to the region and make decisions to address them. The

General Assembly is also an opportunity to collect feedback and contribute to the proposed actions in the framework of the project.

Objectives

Principal objective

The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Eastern African region to enhance the management of AnGR through better regional coordination and networking.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were to:

- Validate the proposed governance structure and Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Eastern Africa;
- Conduct the election of members of the Steering Committee;
- Propose mechanisms for the sustainability of the S-RPF;
- Review the status of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks on the use of AnGR in Eastern Africa;
- Initiate discussions on the development of national and regional guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of policies for crossbreeding and in situ and ex situ conservation;
- Engage in discussions on procedures for the operation of regional gene bank(s);
- Discuss the preliminary results for the establishment of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).
- Present and discuss the Table of Content in view of the preparation of the State of AnGR in Africa, and
- Provide a feedback to the NC on the participation of Africa to the 8th meeting of the ITWG.

Participants

The workshop was attended by different participants including National Coordinators, National Focal Points for AnGR of East Africa from 10 countries namely: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Other participants were representatives from RECs (EAC, IGAD and COMESA), Sub-Regional and International Research Organizations (ASARECA, ILRI), International Institutions (FAO Somalia), Civil Society and non-state Organizations of Breeders/Pastoralist/Farmers (Heifer Project International (HPI), PENHA/EAPDA, Dairy Goat association of Kenya), Universities (Makerere University, RUFORUM) and the private sector (Agribusiness -TechnoServe); all involved in the management of Animal Genetic Resources.

Workshop methodology

The workshop was conceived and conducted in form of sessions including presentations, group work and plenary sessions on specific themes. The sessions were chaired by Uganda in respect to the early agreed Terms of References of the General Assembly which delegates the Host Country as a Chair. The secretariat services were provided by ASARECA confirming its position as Secretariat for the S-RFP for Eastern Africa region. The facilitation was done by AU-IBAR.

As a prelude to the sessions, the workshop agenda was examined and adopted. This was followed by individual introductions by all the participants.

Proceedings of the workshop and General Assembly

General Assembly:

Opening Session/Ceremony

The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr George Alfred Ocho, Commissioner for Animal Production & Marketing from the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries. Two (2) speeches one after the other were

made during this ceremony, by Dr Simplicie Nouala, Chief Animal Production Officer, representing the Director of AU-IBAR and Dr George Alfred Ococh, Commissioner for Animal Production & Marketing, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries as well, the Government of Uganda and who officially opened the workshop.

- i. Dr. Simplicie Nouala, Chief Animal Production Officer representing the Director of the AU-IBAR introduced his speech with a reminder on the role and importance of the Sub-Regional Focal Points as provided in the Global Plan of Action. He took the opportunity to refresh the participants on the process which has been launched for Eastern Africa region since Marche 2014 with the establishment of the Interim Steering Committee and the selection of ASARECA to host the Secretariat. The objective of the workshop were also reminded among which the election of the SC members and the fine-tuning of priority actions for the S-RFP.

Dr. Nouala while reminding the important role of stakeholders in the management, conservation and sustainable utilization of AnGR and the biodiversity, also stressed on the specific role of actors at Members States and regional institutions level. National and regional coordinators should consider AnGR issues as part of the mandate of their Institutions and Departments. As such, AU-IBAR should be seen as facilitating the implementation of AnGR actions within MS and the coordination at continental level through the Genetics project. The project should not be perceived as a funding scheme that will cater for stakeholders' staff time costs and other office running costs. Dr. Nouala called for more collaboration, ownership of the project actions which are supposed to be mainstreamed in national and regional actions for AnGR, for sustainability. Dr Nouala finally welcomed the participants and called upon their full engagement in the discussions and decisions to be made for the total ownership and for the sustainability of the S-RFP for AnGR in Eastern Africa.

- ii. Dr George Alfred Ococh, representing the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry & Fisheries in his speech, recalled the importance of AnGR as means of livelihoods (survival and existence) for our populations. Referring to the title of the workshop which stressed on "**Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources**", he mentioned this was for purpose as the countries have to face the pertinent and emerging issues that are challenging the contribution of AnGR to the livelihood of the population. The climate change and variability will go increasing, the Sahara will continue its progress toward the South (40km per annum) and the temperature will increase affecting the rainfall patterns which will impact on the production and productivity of AnGR, said Dr Ococh.

The only alternative will be to use skills and knowledge to adapt to the situation and its challenges. For Dr. Ococh, this is the opportunity to thank AU-IBAR for the initiative taken through this project. He wished all the stakeholders move from the theoretical work and begin making a paradigm shift that will show tangible impact on the ground for the producers. He also called upon the support of all the NC and NFP to mainstream the project's activities into their national actions, for the purpose of sustainability. He invited AU-IBAR for more involvement of the partner States in the joint planning for consideration of national and regional specificities. Dr. Ococh, before officially opening the workshop, called for more collaboration and harmonisation of actions between key actors (AU-IBAR, ILRI, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc.) to avoid duplication and encourage better usage of resources.

Session 1: Establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in Eastern Africa

Two presentations were recorded during this session after which a plenary session facilitated by the AU-IBAR and the Chair of the General Assembly assisted to reflect on, review and validate the criteria to guide the election process for the Steering Committee (SC) members, as well as those of the General Assembly.

a. The Presentations

The first presentation shared the content of the report of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) of the Sub-Regional Focal Point on animal genetic resources for Eastern Africa. The presentation was made by the Coordinator appointed by ASARECA for the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Eastern Africa. The presentation by Dr. Jean Ndikumana focused on the progress in the establishment and management of the S-RFP for Eastern Africa. The key points comprised the decision that initiated the establishment of the EA-S-RFP, its composed Member States, its objectives and organizational structure. The Coordinator also shared in his presentation the Terms of reference of the S-RFP as well as the identified priorities areas on intervention of the EA S-RFP and the activities implemented in 2013-2014.

- i. The Member States constituting the S-RFP for Eastern Africa include 12 countries, namely: Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda and Tanzania. Comoros and Somalia could not attend to the General Assembly.
- ii. The priority intervention areas identified for the S-RFP for Eastern Africa included: - Improve understanding of AnGR through inventory and characterization - Carry out joint collaborative research in determining similarities and differences among Transboundary Breed Populations - Improving sharing of expertise and information on sustainable use of TBBPs - Promoting ex-situ conservation at regional and national level - Policy formulation and review of AnGR - Capacity building on AnGR.
- iii. The following activities were implemented by S-RFP for Eastern Africa:
 - Participation in the planning meeting of the Sub-regional coordinators held in July 2014 in Nairobi by the Genetics project, back to back to the project Steering Committee meeting;
 - The ISC organized a meeting on August 1st, 2014 to prepare the Regional workshop of the Strengthening Capacity for AnGR in EA;
 - Participation and submission of progress report during the Global National Coordinators' workshop, Rome, Italy, 24th -25th November 2014;
 - Participation in the 8th Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on AnGR for Food and Agriculture, Rome, Italy, November 26th – 28th, 2014;
 - Preparation of the Workshop in close consultation with AU-IBAR.

The second presentation focused on the selection criteria of institutions to host the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Eastern Africa, as well as on the composition of the General Assembly and the Steering Committee for the S-RFP. Dr. Pissang on behalf of AU-IBAR presented the background to the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points, the structure of the S-RFP and the roles and responsibilities of the various governance structures. These TORs built on those prepared and presented in Libreville in 2011 for the establishment of S-RFP for West and Central Africa. The same has been used as a template and adjusted to each region's specificities.

The presentation suggested the main features for:

- The General Assembly including its composition (Membership), mandate, chairing, decision making process and tools, meeting periodicity etc...
- The Steering Committee, including its composition, chairmanship, mandate, voting system and funding mechanism.

The presentations were followed by clarification questions, as well as deliberations on the chairmanship of the General Assembly. This was concluded to be the host country as agreed by the Interim Steering Committee since the launching meeting in March 2014. The discussion session also concluded in fine-tuning the composition of the future General Assemblies and the members of the Steering Committee. In some cases, caucus or cluster consultations were made to come up with suggestions. For the SC, the composition agreed upon included 16 members, among which 5 Member States, 3 RECs, 1 representative for University and training institutions, 1 representative of Private sector, 2 Producer representatives for Farmers and Pastoralists, AU-IBAR and 3 Ex-officio. The chairmanship adopted comprised of a chairperson, 2 vice-chairs and a secretary.

b. Elections of the Steering Committee Members

The composition of the SC being agreed during the plenary discussions, the General Assembly proceeded with the election of the SC members. Sixteen (16) members representing: 5 Member States comprising of Kenya (Chair), Uganda (1st Vice-chair), Ethiopia (2nd Vice-chair), Burundi (member) and Sudan (member); ASARECA (Secretariat), 3 RECs (EAC, IGAD, COMESA), AU-IBAR, University and training institutions (RUFORUM), Private sector (ESADA), Producers both Farmers and Pastoralists (PENHA) and 3 Ex-officio (FAO, ILRI, HPI) were elected. Participants agreed to establish a Bureau of the SC composed of a chairperson, 2 vice-chairs and the secretary. The tenure of the bureau was recommended to be for two years after which the 1st Vice-chair will take over the chairmanship and the 2nd Vice-chair move to 1st Vice-chair, a new 2nd Vice-chair will be elected. The bureau is composed of Kenya (Chair), Uganda (1st Vice-chair), Ethiopia (2nd Vice-chair) and ASARECA (Secretariat).

Session 2: Policy and regulatory frameworks for animal genetic resources

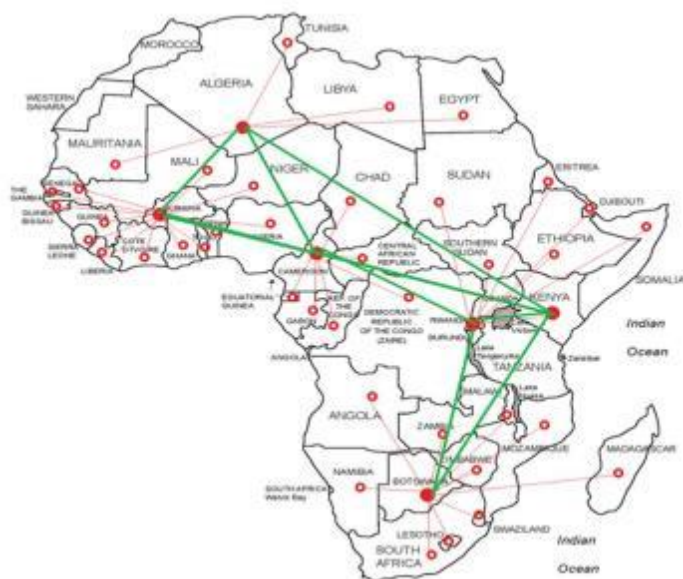
Under this session, the workshop registered two (2) presentations followed by discussions in two working groups.

a. The presentations :

The two presentations made by AU-IBAR.

- i. The first presentation "***The inventory and analysis of policies and legislative frameworks for AnGR in Eastern Africa***" made by Dr. Nengomasha assessed some prevailing issues on policies, strategies and legislation for AnGR in the various Member States in Eastern Africa and attempted to highlight issues, shortfalls and gaps which may hinder the proper conservation, utilization and general management of AnGR. The assessments were mainly based on submissions by Member States to the 1st and 2nd State of the World's Reports on Animal Genetic Resources (SoW-AnGR) and other documents. It was clear that only a few countries in the region have policies and legislation directly formulated and designed for the management of AnGR (Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan). Some policies and legislation were very old and may require updating. Many of the countries still have draft versions of policies under development. The presentation also noted that there were no policies and legislation on crossbreeding or on transboundary breeds. The subsequent discussions highlighted the need for greater advocacy for AnGR in the region which may require some innovative approaches to change perceptions, particularly on the advantages of indigenous or exotic breeds. It was also noted that products from indigenous breeds could be branded, especially those produced organically for niche marketing. It was noted that many countries in the region do not have functional breeders' societies and this is hampering the management of some important breeds. The establishment of breeders' societies would significantly contribute to the proper management of AnGR in the region. The meeting also agreed that it would be good if an assessment is conducted on the genetic impact of imported breeds in the region. It was also acknowledged that exotic breeds have their merits and can significantly contribute to the region's livestock production.
- ii. The second presentation "***Towards the establishment of an African Gene Bank for AnGR: the key aspects for considerations***" from Dr N'Guetta Bosso highlighted the key issues for consideration in the establishment of gene banks for AnGR. He stressed the importance of establishing gene banks, chief among them to preserve and safeguard the wealth of genetic diversity, especially those

threatened with extinction, and create a back-up for future generations. The characteristics and critical points of gene banks including: agreements between host institution and owners of stored materials; documentation on stored materials; identification of stored materials; information about stored materials. Issues of ownership and access to the stored materials were also highlighted. Examples of Material Transfer Agreements and the legal issues were also presented. The findings of the assessments of gene bank facilities and the recommendations thereof were also presented for consideration by the General Assembly. He reported for the region, that field assessments were conducted in Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania. The recommendations were that the National Animal Genetic Resources Center and Data Bank (NAGRC & DB) in Entebbe, Uganda could be a potential candidate to host the regional gene bank for Eastern Africa. It was however, stressed that this was just a recommendation and that the region was free to establish the regional gene bank where it preferred. It was also reported that PANVAC would act as a depository back-up conservation site for the genetic materials from Africa. A roadmap was proposed for the development of a Network of African Gene Banks and the schematic map is shown below.



The proposed network is premised on the model of the European Network of Gene Banks. The proposed governance structure of the network was also presented. It was announced that the Genetic Project would support the establishment of the African Gene Bank and some of the activities. However, long-term financial support should be considered outside the project.

b. Group session

On the basis of the issues raised, the participants continued their consultations in two groups in order to deliberate on:

- The gaps in the existing policies on AnGR; specifically What should be done about; what are the options, the intervention entry points, the levels of implementation, the monitoring, evaluation and mechanisms?
- The mechanisms by Member States and the RECs in developing regional policies for transboundary breeds, for crossbreeding, conservation and Access and Benefit Sharing of AnGR; as well as the policies/regulatory mechanisms necessary to prevent “loss” of AnGR from the region especially to the developed countries (e.g. Sahiwal to Australia).
- Steps and timelines to be followed in the development and formulation of policies (detailed roadmap); the level of consultation in development of policies on AnGR and the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders in the formulation process.

Group 1:

The group suggested the following as potential intervention options for the challenges on policies and legislation on AnGR:

- Sub Regional Focal Points to support the harmonization of the relevant polices:
 - i. The need to review existing policies of affected communities/countries;
 - ii. Involve the custodians of indigenous breeds in regional policy development;
 - iii. Conduct AKAP studies across communities that are involved;
- Develop independent polices & regulatory framework on genetic improvement
- Create a national roadmap of AnGR improvement and involve government in its implementation

- Support functionality of government with relevant stakeholders
- Countries are at different levels and there is need to conduct studies to ascertain the levels:
 - i. Refer to Nagoya Protocol, which is about ABS (Access & benefit sharing)
 - ii. Participatory involvement on conservation starting with the communities /Countries/Regional
 - iii. Participatory development of national breeding programs for countries involved
- On regional gene banking:
 - i. Have effective Gene Banking at national, sub-regional and regional levels
 - ii. Support community based breeding and conservation programmes
 - iii. Strengthen the Nagoya Protocol and characterization with a strong Bio Asset Policy
 - iv. Implement strong Bio-cultural Protocols

Group 2:

The group suggested the following as potential intervention options for the challenges on policies and legislation on AnGR:

- Review and develop policies on AnGR;
- Ensure implementation of the existing AnGR policies;
- Develop strategies on Conservation;
- Address IPR/Traditional Knowledge issues in the policies and encourage community participation through Community (Bio-cultural) protocols;
- Harmonization of Common Policies on transboundary breed populations;
- AU- IBAR to assist MS to take stock, harmonize and review of existing policies, by developing policy model frameworks for the sub-region
- Sensitization of the MS decision makers (Governments) and RECs by AU-IBAR. A mechanism should be developed
- Provide evidence of the importance of use of good breeds (AnGR) and the economic impact to convince decision makers on need for allocation of resources to this sector
- Harmonizing of tools and protocols and regulations- through technical support by FAO, ILRI etc...
- RECs to develop Policy frameworks for policy development and review at national level

Session 3: African AnGR information system (AAGRIS)

The following sub-sessions were facilitated:

a. Presentation & discussion on the Table of Content for the State of AnGR in Africa

The Genetics project is planning to develop a document on the State of AnGR in Africa for Member States to be effectively involved in the sustainable utilisation of AnGR and to carry out their functions in a way that ensures the biological basis for Africa food security, and contribute to the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people. The objective of the document on the State of AnGR in Africa is to provide basic, easily accessible materials that provide a systematic support to the conservation, use and management of AnGR in order to make available clear and practical ways of working differently. During the inception phase of the project, AU-IBAR has gathered valuable information and reports, specifically Country report in contribution to the 1st and 2nd State of the World report on AnGR. The intention now is to package what has been learned so far from that experience into a document on the State of AnGR in Africa. A Table of content in view of the preparation of the document on the State of AnGR in Africa has been developed and shared with different stakeholders for their comments and inputs.

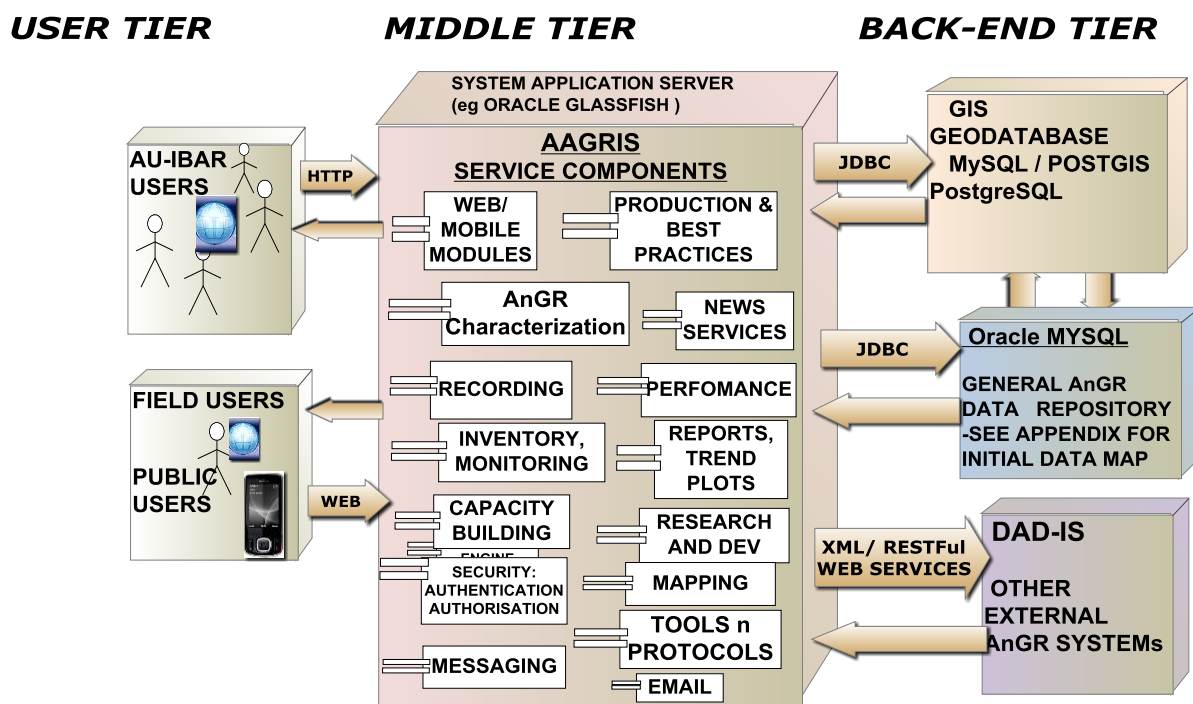
To maximise on the contributions from the National Coordinators, a printed copy of this draft document was distributed to all the participants. Their individual contributions were then collected for consideration in the final document. The main comments included the below:

- Some of the participants suggested expansion of coverage to include other species in the Status of AnGR in Africa document e.g. dogs, cats snakes, toads and wildlife;

- On the section on fisheries, it was noted that NCs did not report on fish in their Country Reports submitted to FAO. So AU-IBAR should devise ways of getting the information on fisheries.
- It was suggested to re-word the Chapter “Enhance characterization and animal recording” probably removing “enhance”. Also consider placement of issues such as monitoring tools to another section of the document, probably under “Threats to Africa’s AnGR”.
- Under Chapter “Institutional, policy and legislative frameworks for AnGR” be specific highlighting NCs, NFPs and NACs under the Ministry category. Policy frameworks should specifically highlight policy gaps
- Move “...utilization of reproductive technologies (embryo transfer, AI) to under “Conservation Programmes”.
- Under “Conservation Programmes” correct “*ex-situ (in vivo and in vitro) and in situ*” and include Access and Benefit Sharing.
- In “Conclusion” highlight strengths, weaknesses, gaps in the sustainable utilization and way forward on African AnGR

b. Introductory presentation on AAGRIS: Needs assessment and preliminary structure

In her presentation, Dr Mbole-Kariuki made a brief introduction on the proposed African Animal Genetic Resources Information System. The presentation also covered the result of needs assessment conducted and the proposed system solution. The system will be designed as a “user-owned” system. It is noted that user and stakeholder needs assessments were conducted using a questionnaire for which there had been 60 responses at the time of reporting. The questionnaire requested for stakeholders needs in terms of various aspects including: content, data and information, providers of regular updates, regularity of updates, indicators for tracking status and trends, shortcomings of existing information systems and specific usability features and technical functionality. The interoperability of AAGRIS with DAD-IS of FAO and other databases/information systems was also discussed. From the available information, it is apparent that stakeholders would want information and data on: characterization of AnGR; AnGR mapping and spatial distribution; conservation; livestock recording and performance testing; monitoring of trends; policies and legislation on AnGR; funding and collaboration opportunities; AnGR research and news updates; AnGR value-chains; AnGR experts database. The proposed system architecture was presented, as shown below:



**African Animal Genetic Resources Information System
PROPOSED MULTI-TIER ARCHITECTURE**

Group discussion Outcomes:

The group discussion focussed on three following aspects of AAGRIS

i. Data sources and management

In the discussions, it was agreed that National Coordinators working with the National Advisory/Consultative Committees would provide the data and information. National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) could also contribute some data and information. However, it is important that data and information for AAGRIS are provided from only authentic and official sources. Information and data on fisheries and wildlife will be included in AAGRIS. Participants suggested that there was a lot of information already available in the region, such as the breed factsheets produced for the FAnGR project.

ii. Information and data content of AAGRIS;

In general, participants pointed out that there could have been regional specificities and priorities information and data needs that were not reflected in the presentation. It was then advised to aggregate the responses by (i) region (ii) stakeholders and (iii) issues/themes. It was also stressed that AAGRIS is not a project but is part of ARIS. In relation to the addition additional features;

Group 1 proposed inclusion of;

1. Eco Dynamics & production system i.e. Range management
2. Market & Production Information
3. Business Intelligence Tools for Feedback
4. Commercial value offering for project sustainable i.e. adverting & subscriptions
5. Decision support Tool

Group 2 proposed the addition of;

1. Socio-economic category that would capture information on markets as well as document success stories

iii. Foreseen challenges and shortcomings of AAGRIS

The two groups has similar concerns that were focussed on the inadequate capacity at lower levels to support data capture, process and share, infrastructure, equipment and requested AU-IBAR to take a lead role in this through organizing relevant training workshops.

There was also a general consensus that the system should be decongested and aspects covering news and diseases be excluded. An efficient feedback mechanism must be put in place to ensure that the information and outcomes form the analysed data packaged in a friendly format for the consumption of the end users.

c. Outcome of the workshop on tools & protocols for Characterization & Inventory for AnGR

Dr. Mbole-Kariuki presented on the e-discussion and the workshop on the characterization and inventory tools and protocols for AnGR. She highlighted that the activity sought to build consensus on the tools and methodologies used in the characterization and inventory of AnGR. An e-discussion was conducted to answer the query "**What does Africa really want from AnGR tools?**" The e-discussion indicated various shortcomings including: technical incapacity; financial constraints; dis-harmony in the use of AnGR tools; policy impediments; lack of political will; insensitivity or unawareness of the existence of the tools; inactive and/or lack of Committees or consortiums for AnGR; lack of common databases and information hubs. The preferred characteristics of the characterization tools for Africa were also discussed and that the tools should be: standardized; affordable; uniformly applicable; robust; customized; informative; user-friendly; readily available and accessible; and modernized. The e-discussion also established consensus on what approaches are required in the short-term for immediate benefit. These included: revision and harmonization of tools; building a sound technical base; formulation and implementation of policies; raising awareness; fund-raising; establish common African

information hubs and consortiums. In the long-term, there is need to establish Livestock Monitoring Committees as sentries of AnGR.

The workshop held in Dar-es-Salaam was to: examine the existing tools and protocols for characterization and inventory; design a strategy to improve utilization of tools and to agree of roadmap with roles and responsibilities. SWOT analyses of the existing tools were conducted culminating in the revision of phenotypic (morphometric, environmental, production and reproduction, adaptive, socio-economic, biological samples, indigenous knowledge), molecular (Single Nucleotide Polymorphism, genome sequencing) and inventory (livestock surveys) tools. The workshop also agreed to adopt the African Goat Improvement Network (AGIN) Protocol photography specifications for phenotypic tools and to conduct training and capacity building for molecular and inventory tools. A road map was also agreed to and key stakeholders identified.

d. Feedback from the 8th Session of the ITWG in Rome

The Eighth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 26th – 28th November 2014. The Session was convened under the Regular Programme of the Organization.

Prior to the Eighth Session of the Working Group, FAO convened from 24th – 25th November 2014, a Global National Coordinators' Workshop on the establishment of the Regional Focal Points and their management.

AU-IBAR through the Genetics Project has participated as an observer and has sponsored the participation of the newly established Coordinators of the Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) to both events. It was deemed important to share the feedback with the NC as this was an important achievement of the project and for the continent.

- a. The workshop was attended by participants from 12 African countries including: Cameroon, Eritrea, Namibia, Togo (members of the Working Group), Algeria, Egypt, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Mozambique, Burundi and Ethiopia. In addition to the AU-IBAR Genetics project team, the coordinators representing the 5 sub-regional focal points (S-RFP) sponsored by AU-IBAR fully attended to the workshop. Those are namely the S-RFP Eastern Africa (ASARECA), S-RFP West Africa (CORAF/WECARD), S-RFP Central Africa (CEBEVIRHA), S-RFP Northern Africa (INRAA) and S-RFP Southern Africa (CCARDESA). The Global National Coordinators' Workshop has been a good opportunity to share the experience from Africa on the establishment of the Regional Focal Point; to take forward the issues of AnGR by creating a World Genebank, as has initiated by Africa for the creation of a Regional Genebank. Delegates from other regions wished to know more on the 5 S-RFP and their future linkages with the AFRP (Africa Regional Focal Point).
- b. In prelude to the ITWG on AnGR for Food and Agriculture meeting, regional consultations were held. The Group Africa elected a bureau to facilitate the African caucus with Togo as Chair and seconded by Namibia, who also served as Secretary. Namibia was appointed as Spoke person for Africa whenever the Chair should be given the floor. Building on the experience of countries participants who attended to the previous sessions and on the guidance of the AU-IBAR team, the African group came to an agreement to speak with one voice. Any new suggestion or views to be made during the plenary sessions were to be channelled to the Chair of the African caucus. The African caucus also agreed for its chair to stand for a position of Vice Chair in the presidium of the ITWG not for the Chair of the Commission. Strategically, the group also accepted to support the European caucus, or any candidate the European caucus will support to stand as chair of the ITWG.

Achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt included:

- i. The participation and contribution of the African continent has been well appreciated and highlighted during the opening speeches of the Global National Coordinators' Workshop and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
- ii. The contributions commended AU-IBAR through its Genetics project and included: - The strong mobilization of the national coordinators for the timely, quantitative and qualitative submission of the country reports, which has greatly increased the number of reports submitted for the Second state of the World for AnGR (41 reports submitted from Africa) - The facilitation of the travels and accommodations for Sub-Regional Coordinators to attend the Global National Coordinators' Workshop and the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, hence increasing the number of participants from Africa and the voice of Africa as well

- iii. As reported by the organizers and the frequent and usual attendants to the event, for the first time the Group Africa has shown a well-coordinated and united entity which has also improved the quality of its participation, as well as in the pertinence of the issues raised.

The way Africa approached the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points has been highly appreciated and has even inspired other continents (Latin America and Caribbean) willing to use the same approach. In fact, as oppose to other continents/regions which have established their Regional Focal Points (RFP) on the National Focal Points (NFP), the African Regional Focal Point (ARFP) has adopted a different approach and has as such initiated its establishment process building first on the Sub-Regional Focal Points (S-RFP) in the 5 political African regions.

Some lessons learned have been drawn from this first participation of the AU-IBAR Genetics project team:

- i. Some of the African countries were either represented by their embassies or persons different from the known national coordinators. Though there have been no controversial/contradictory intervention, there is need in the future to really build the African bloc and have everyone attending to the African caucus.
- ii. Though a great work has been achieved during these key meetings, it appeared that an initial work needed to be done in term of mastering the subjects to be discussed during the sessions. The time allocated for regional consultation would have only served to fine-tune the continent's position over some pertinent issue. Besides the initial work that the project team will have to take over, in term pre-analysing and availing to the countries the working documents for the meeting during the ITWG and the Commission, a preparatory meeting of national coordinators before travel to FAO could be an alternative for consideration;
- iii. Some of the subject dealt with during the Session, requested the support and guidance of a lawyer of the continents representatives. Issues related to "access and benefit sharing", "Services ecosystem provided by livestock species and breeds" raised considerably discussions in which Africa could not be actually heard.

As recommendation for the Fifteenth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) that will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome 19 - 23 January 2015, it is suggested that AU-IBAR:

- i. Circulates to the National Coordinators all the documentation available and related to the meeting for their acquaintance and to increase their knowledge of the issues that will be addressed during the Regular Session of the Commission;
- ii. Moderates an e-discussion on relevant and importance issues related to AnGR on the Continent which could culminate with a Workshop/ meeting to adopt common position;
- iii. Facilitates if possible the participation of some countries to the Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

Steering Committee meeting: Priority areas and sustainable mechanisms for the S-RFP for AnGR in Eastern Africa

After discussion the deliberations concluded in the following priorities to be addressed by the S-RFP. This included ToRs of the Steering Committee as well as the below listed:

- Harmonization of policies on the management of AnGR in the region;
- Characterization and conservation of AnGR, particularly of transboundary breeds populations;
- AAGRIS activities at National and Sub-Regional levels to be based on recommendations from the GA;
- Development of proposals for fundraising, through taskforces with support from AU-IBAR and RECs;
- Sensitization of MS on AnGR and the Sustainability of the S-RFP.

Closing of the workshop

At the end of the deliberations a final communiqué was adopted by the participants (**Annex 3**).

Dr N' Guetta Bosso, on behalf of the Director, officially closed the workshop. He took the opportunity to thank all the participants for finding time to attend the General Assembly, for their invaluable contributions during the

workshop, the ambiance and the quality of achievements following intense deliberations and exchanges. He commended the countries for the common position the continent has been able to achieve during the 8th Session of the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group (ITWG) on AnGR held in Rome, in November 2014, which shows an increased interest in AnGR issues. He called on states to further support the S-RFP and the management of animal genetic resources. Dr N 'Guetta Bosso extended AU-IBAR's sincere thanks to the Government of Uganda for the warm welcome and the perfect organisation of the workshop. He finally wished the participants a safe return to their homes and declared the regional workshop closed.

Conclusions / Recommendations

In conclusion of the deliberations of the workshop the following recommendations and way forward were expressed as captured in the final communiqué.

From the various discussions the following recommendations were made at the end of the General Assembly:

a. At national level:

- AnGR characterization, conservation and utilization should primarily be funded by national governments by allocating adequate resources to establish National Advisory Committees (NAC) and develop National Action Plans (NAPs) aligned to the GPA. The funding of activities for the GPA should be included in National Budgets.
- NACs should be established or strengthened where they exist. This should be followed by the implementation of the NAPs.
- Through the Genetics project, AU-IBAR should support countries to establish NACs as it has already invited countries to submit their funding requests to that effect.
- AU-IBAR should write country specific letters to MS sensitizing them to support their AnGR activities and commending efforts already made.
- The RECs should participate in sensitizing countries to support AnGR activities at country level through the various forums they organize. AU-IBAR should also sensitize countries during project-related visits.
- Consideration should be made in relation to the sustainability and maintenance of AAGRIS at national level, with AU-IBAR mandated to ensure appropriate training is undertaken to ensure maximum utilization of the new information system. The Information system should be developed with the primary drive of it being a decision making tool. The issue of data value chain must be a priority to ensure accurate and usable data is collected from the national level.

b. At Sub-regional level:

- AU-IBAR should make funds available to the SC for its operations, such as proposal development for submission to donors to sustain S-RFP. The funding will be based on the Workplan developed by the SC at its first meeting planned for January or early February 2015.
- The RECs (IGAD, EAC and COMESA) expressed commitment to support proposals to be developed for submission to potential donors for funding. The proposals will be approved by the SC and submitted by its Bureau.
- The S-RFP should ensure that HR and facilities existing in some countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda) are made available for use by other countries.
- The minutes from this meeting should be shared with NFPs to ensure that each country implements the recommendations.
- The SC should collaborate with AU-IBAR to develop a policy brief to be used for sensitization of MS.

As way forward:

- AU-IBAR to undertake further analysis of challenges of the current livestock databases and determine the appropriate interventions, to avoid creating an information system which will be underutilized. Considerations to be made on the necessary modules needed to avoid duplication.
- The next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to late January or early February 2015 to develop the workplan and budget, with the facilitation by AU-IBAR to kick-start the SC activities as well as the work of NACs at country level;
- The GA emphasized that priority should be given to measures that promote conservation of AnGR in their natural environments. However, gene banking was necessary as a back-up strategy in case live populations are lost due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, AU-IBAR was tasked with re-engaging the RECs regarding gene banking and to learn from the experience on the operation of the Regional Gene bank for plants.
- It is suggested the next General Assembly be held in 2015 in the Republic of Sudan.

Annexes

1. List of participants
2. Agenda of the Workshop
3. Communiqué of the Workshop

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2: Agenda of the Workshop



“Strengthening the capacities for the management of Animal Genetic Resources in Eastern Africa” Regional Workshop (11th - 12th December 2014)

Proposed agenda:

Day 1		Facilitator
Time	Official opening	
9:00 – 9:30	- Welcome Remarks - AU-IBAR - Official Opening - Government of Uganda	Host country representative
9:30 – 9:45	- Introductions of participants - Adoption of Agenda by the General Assembly (GA)	AU-IBAR
9:45-10:15	Health Break and Group Photo	All
	Session 1: Establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Point	Chair
10:15-10:45	- Presentation of the report of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC) - Presentation and Validation of the Action Plan proposed by the ISC	ISC
10:45-11:05	- Presentation of TORs, criteria for the Steering Committee	ISC
11:05-11:30	- Review & Validation of the criteria for the election of the members of the SC	AU-IBAR
11:30-12:30	- Election of the members of the GA and the SC (Steering Committee)	AU-IBAR
12:30-13:30	Lunch	All
	Session 2: Policy and regulatory frameworks for AnGR	
13:30-14:00	- Presentation of the inventory and analysis of policies and legislative frameworks - Presentation: Towards the establishment of an African Gene Bank for AnGR: What are the key aspects to consider?	AU-IBAR
14:00-14:30	Discussions	
14:30-16:00	- Group work on identification of policy gaps and intervention entry points	All
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	All
16:30-17:30	- Report to plenary and discussions	All
Day 2		
	Session 3: African AnGR information system (AAGRIS)	
8:30-9:15	- Presentation & discussion on the Table of Content in view of the preparation of the Status & Trends for AnGR in Africa	AU-IBAR
9:15 -10:15	- Introductory presentation on AAGRIS and consultant’s report on needs assessment and preliminary structure of AAGRIS - Group Work: Validate information needs assessment & preliminary structure for AAGRIS	AU-IBAR
10:15-10:45	- Report to plenary and discussions	All
10:45-11:15	Coffee break	All
11:15-12:00	- Outcome of the workshop on tools & protocols for Characterization & Inventory for AnGR	All
12:00-12:30	- Feedback from the 8 th meeting of the ITWG	AU-IBAR
12:30-13:00	- General discussions	All
13:00-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-15:00	- SC meeting (open to observers) to reflect on the Sustainability of the S-RFP	SC/ All
15:00-15:30	- Presentation and Adoption of the outcomes from the SC meeting	SC/ All
15:30-16:00	Health Break	All
16:00-16:30	- General discussions of the General Assembly	AU-IBAR
16:30-17:30	- Recommendations/Workshop Communique	All
17:30	Closing Remarks	

Annex 3: Communique of the Workshop



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITIES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN
EASTERN AFRICA**

**11th - 12th December 2014
Imperial Royale Hotel - Kampala
UGANDA**

Introduction

A Regional workshop on “**Strengthening the capacities for Management of Animal Genetic Resources in Eastern Africa (EA)**” was organized from 11-12 December 2014 at Imperial Royale Hotel, KAMPALA, Uganda.

The Regional workshop was convened by the African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) in collaboration with ASARECA (Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa) in the framework of the implementation of the AU-IBAR project on “**Strengthening the capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Animal Genetic Resources in Africa**”.

The overall objective of the workshop was to strengthen the capacity of the Eastern African region to enhance the management of AnGR through better regional coordination and networking. More specifically, the workshop intended to:

- Validate the proposed governance structure and Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee for the S-RFP for Eastern Africa;
- Conduct the election of members of the Steering Committee;
- Propose mechanisms for the sustainability of the S-RPF;
- Review the status of the existing policies and regulatory frameworks on the use of AnGR in Eastern Africa;
- Initiate discussions on the development of national and regional guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of policies for crossbreeding, *In situ* and *Ex situ* conservation and sustainable utilization (including promotion and improvement of indigenous breeds);
- Engage in discussions on procedures for the operation of regional gene bank(s);
- Discuss the preliminary results for the establishment of the African Animal Genetic Resources Information System (AAGRIS).
- Present and discuss the Table of Content in view of the preparation of the State of AnGR in Africa, and
- Provide a feedback to the NC on the participation of Africa to the 8th meeting of the ITWG.

The workshop was attended by different participants including National Coordinators, National Focal Points for AnGR of East Africa from 10 countries namely: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Other participants were representatives from RECs (EAC, IGAD and COMESA), Sub-Regional and International Research Organizations (ASARECA, ILRI), International Institutions (FAO Somalia), Civil Society and non-state Organizations of Breeders/Pastoralist/Farmers (Heifer Project International (HPI), PENHA/EAPDA, Dairy Goat association of Kenya), Universities (Makerere University, RUFORUM) and the private sector (Agribusiness -TechnoServe); all involved in the management of Animal Genetic Resources.

In its proceedings, the workshop registered presentations on the report of the Interim Steering Committee (ISC), the Action Plan proposed by the ISC, the TORs and criteria for the Steering Committee. On the policy and regulatory frameworks for AnGR two presentations were provided. The first one was on the inventory and analysis of policies and legislative frameworks; the second one was “Towards the establishment of an African Gene Bank for AnGR: key aspects for consideration”. The session was concluded with Group works on the identification of policy gaps and intervention entry points.

Outcomes of the Workshop

The GA elected **16 members of the S-RFP Steering Committee**. 5 Member States comprising of Kenya (Chair), Uganda (1st Vice-chair), Ethiopia (2nd Vice-chair), Burundi (member) and Sudan (member); ASARECA (Secretariat), 3 RECs (EAC, IGAD, COMESA), AU-IBAR, University and training institutions (RUFORUM), Private sector (ESADA), Producers both Farmers and Pastoralists (PENHA) and 3 Ex-officio (FAO, ILRI, HPI).

Participants agreed to establish a **Bureau of the SC** composed of a chairperson, 2 vice-chairs and the secretary. The tenure of the bureau was recommended to be for two years after which the 1st Vice-chair will take over the chairmanship and the 2nd Vice-chair move to 1st Vice-chair, a new 2nd Vice-chair will be elected. The bureau is composed of Kenya (Chair), Uganda (1st Vice-chair), Ethiopia (2nd Vice-chair) and ASARECA (Secretariat).

Priorities to be addressed include ToRs of the Steering Committee as well as the below listed:

1. Harmonization of policies on the management of AnGR in the region;
2. Characterization and conservation of AnGR, particularly of transboundary breeds populations;
3. AAGRIS activities at National and Sub-Regional levels to be based on recommendations from the GA;
4. Development of proposals for fundraising, through taskforces with support from AU-IBAR and RECs;
5. Sensitization of MS on AnGR and the Sustainability of the S-RFP.

To the credit of the workshop, as other achievements:

- The criteria for the Steering Committee were reviewed, validated and concluded in the election of the members of the GA and the SC.
- Comments were also made on a proposed Table of content in view of the preparation of the document on “The State of Animal Genetic resources in Africa”.
- The **Needs assessment report for the development of AAGRIS** was validated. The study had an objective of conducting a comprehensive needs assessment on AnGR data and information requirements by various stakeholders (policy makers, breeders and farmers associations, scientist, scholars, development practitioners, etc.).

Recommendations of the General Assembly

From the various discussions the following recommendations were made at the end of the General Assembly:

a. At national level:

- AnGR characterization, conservation and utilization should primarily be funded by national governments by allocating adequate resources to establish National Advisory Committees (NAC) and develop National Action Plans (NAPs) aligned to the GPA. The funding of activities for the GPA should be included in National Budgets.
- NACs should be established or strengthened where they exist. This should be followed by the implementation of the NAPs.
- Through the Genetics project, AU-IBAR should support countries to establish NACs as it has already invited countries to submit their funding requests to that effect.
- AU-IBAR should write country specific letters to MS sensitizing them to support their AnGR activities and commending efforts already made.
- The RECs should participate in sensitizing countries to support AnGR activities at country level through the various forums they organize. AU-IBAR should also sensitize countries during project-related visits.
- Consideration should be made in relation to the sustainability and maintenance of AAGRIS at national level, with AU-IBAR mandated to ensure appropriate training is undertaken to ensure maximum utilization of the new information system. The Information system should be developed with the primary drive of it being a decision making tool. The issue of data value chain must be a priority to ensure accurate and usable data is collected from the national level.

b. At Sub-regional level:

- AU-IBAR should make funds available to the SC for its operations, such as proposal development for submission to donors to sustain S-RFP. The funding will be based on the Workplan developed by the SC at its first meeting planned for January or early February 2015.

- The RECs (IGAD, EAC and COMESA) expressed commitment to support proposals to be developed for submission to potential donors for funding. The proposals will be approved by the SC and submitted by its Bureau.
- The S-RFP should ensure that HR and facilities existing in some countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda) are made available for use by other countries.
- The minutes from this meeting should be shared with NFPs to ensure that each country implements the recommendations.
- The SC should collaborate with AU-IBAR to develop a policy brief to be used for sensitization of MS.

Way forward:

1. AU-IBAR to undertake further analysis of challenges of the current livestock databases and determine the appropriate interventions, to avoid creating an information system which will be underutilized. Considerations to be made on the necessary modules needed to avoid duplication.
2. The next Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled to late January or early February 2015 to develop the workplan and budget, with the facilitation by AU-IBAR to kick-start the SC activities as well as the work of NACs at country level;
3. The GA emphasized that priority should be given to measures that promote conservation of AnGR in their natural environments. However, gene banking was necessary as a back-up strategy in case live populations are lost due to unforeseen circumstances. Therefore, AU-IBAR was tasked with re-engaging the RECs regarding gene banking and to learn from the experience on the operation of the Regional Gene bank for plants.
4. It is suggested the next General Assembly be held in 2015 in the Republic of Sudan.

Kampala, 12th December 2014

The General Assembly