

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE
STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITIES FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC
RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA**
28 - 30 August 2014 – N'Djamena, TCHAD





Regional workshop for the Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Central and West

**CEBEVIRHA, N'Djamena, CHAD
28 to 30 August 2014**

September 2014

- Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources
 - PCT/RAF/3403 Assistance for a Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa

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Abbreviations

APESS :	Association for the Promotion of Cattle Breeding in the Savannah region and in the Sahel
NCC :	National Coordination Committee
CEBEVIRHA :	Economic Commission on Livestock, Meat and Fish Resources
ECCAS:	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS :	Economic Community of West African States
CEMAC :	Central African Economic and Monetary Community
RECs :	Regional Economic Communities
CIRDES :	International Centre for Sub-humid Livestock Research and Development
NC :	National Coordinators
CORAF/WECARD :	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
FAO:	United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization
ITC :	International Trypanotolerance Centre
NAP:	National Action Plan
GAP :	Global Action Plan
NAP:	National Action Plan
NFP:	National Focal Points
S-RFP :	Sub-regional focal point
PRASAC :	Regional Centre for Applied Research for Developing Agricultural Systems in Central Africa
PROPAC :	Regional Platform of Organisations of Central African Producers
PROGEBE :	Regional Project on the sustainable management of ruminant livestock endemic to West Africa
BMN :	Billital Maroobé Network
AGRs:	Animal Genetic Resources
ROPPA :	Network of Peasant Organisations and Agricultural Producers
ZRs:	Animal genetic resources
AU-IBAR:	African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
UEMOA :	West African Monetary and Economic Union

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Summary

The AU-IBAR and the FAO organized a joint regional workshop entitled “Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Central and West Africa” which was held in N’Djamena, Chad from 28th to 30th August 2014 within the framework of two initiatives, namely 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” implemented by the AU-IBAR and the technical cooperation project between the FAO Regional Office and the AU-IBAR entitled “Assistance for a Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa”.

The main objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of the sub-regional focal point (S-RFP) for Central and West Africa in order to improve the management of animal genetic resources through better coordination and networking. More specifically, the workshop aimed to:

- Assess the progress made in the activities of the S-RFP since the Libreville meeting in 2011 ;
- Agree on the best institutional framework, taking into account progress achieved, the institutional environment of both regions ;
- Agree on and confirm the current geographic coverage of the S-RFP or decide otherwise;
- Choose the institutions that will host the Secretariats of the S-RFPs;
- Elect the Steering Committees of the S-RFPs;
- Propose a mechanism for the sustainability of S-RFP(s) beyond projects support.

The workshop brought together participants from 15 countries of Central and West Africa, among them National Coordinators for animal genetic resources, Focal Points of the AU-IBAR’s Genetics Project, representatives of sub-regional, regional and international institutions namely the Economic Commission on Livestock, Meat and Fish Resources (CEBEVIRHA), the Economic Community for Central African States (CEEAC), the International Centre for Sub-humid Livestock Research and Development (CIRDES), West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development (CORAF/WECARD), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) and the AU-IBAR.

The workshop was conducted in two stages: 1) The General Assembly held on 28th and 29th August 2014 and 2) the meeting of the Steering Committees held on 30th August 2014. Various presentations were made and the participants engaged in group work and in plenary sessions on specific themes. Some three days of deliberations culminated in the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a. The general assembly decided to create two sub-regional focal points instead of a single one for the two regions. That is one sub-regional focal point for Central Africa and another for West Africa.
The CEBEVIRHA was chosen as the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Central Africa after consultation with the Central African countries. The Steering Committee for Central Africa will be made up of representatives of elected Member States, namely Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and Chad which will be joined by the CEEAC as chair, the Food and Agricultural Organization, the Regional Centre for Applied Research for Developing Agricultural Systems in Central Africa (PRASAC), the AU-IBAR and the University of Dschang.
- b. CORAF/WECARD was chosen to be the Secretariat of the S-RFP for West Africa after consultation with the countries of West Africa. The Steering Committee for West Africa will be made up of representatives of the Member States which are Ghana, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Benin who will be joined by the Network of Farmers Organisations and Agricultural Producers (ROPPA), the Billital Maroobé Network (BMN), the Association for the Promotion of Cattle Breeding in the Savannah region and in the Sahel (APESS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), ITC, CIRDES, FAO, AU-IBAR and the University of Ghana.
- c. Regarding the resources mobilisation for the sustainability of the S-RFPs, the General Assembly recommended the solicitation of financial support from States and development partners.

- d. The General Assembly recommended the reinforcement of collaboration between the members of the sub-regional Focal Points for Central and West Africa in order to encourage exchanges between coordinators and national points of contact of the Genetics Project and reinforce coordination on activities and initiatives around AnGRs.
- e. The General Assembly recommended after the establishment of the different focal points, the dissemination of information and advocacy within the Member States and sensitization of all the actors on the importance of animal genetic resources.

Context

World food security and poverty alleviation are global challenges for present and future generations. At the same time, the conservation and sustainable utilization of biological diversity as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources are central tasks of the global community, as agreed by the adoption of the Convention of Biological Diversity in 1992.

The Millennium Development Goal 1 “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” and Goal 7 “ensure environmental sustainability” highlight these challenges. As an important part of the agricultural biodiversity, Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) are an essential basis for livestock production and offer opportunities to adapt animal breeds to changing environments, especially in the light of climate change.

This has been recognized by the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources (GPA) which underlines the importance of AnGR for the development of livestock production to meet the future challenges. The need for inventory, characterization and monitoring of AnGR has been stressed through numerous documents. The GPA also highlights the important role of Regional Focal Points (RFPs) and regional networking to build collaborative partnerships, to coordinate regional efforts in the management of AnGR, to further develop information sharing, and for technical cooperation, training and research.

Recently, in 2011, a Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources (S-RFP) in Central and West Africa has been established with the concerted support of FAO’s Animal Genetic Resources Branch (AGAG), Regional Office for Africa (RAF) and Sub-Regional Offices for Central and West Africa (SFC and SFW), and with the collaboration of the African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Regional Project on Sustainable Management of Endemic Ruminant Livestock in West Africa (PROGEBE). The process began at a workshop organized by FAO in collaboration with PROGEBE in March 2010, in Dakar, Senegal.

The workshop took the decision to establish a single focal point covering both Central and West Africa. It also created an interim steering committee, which – in accordance with an agreed road map – organized preparatory electronic and physical meetings to discuss the nature, structure, funding, promotion and establishment process of the focal point. The interim steering committee also promoted the involvement of regional economic communities, reviewed and amended the election procedures, and prepared a regional workshop at which the focal point was to be established. The latter workshop took place in June 2011 in Libreville, Gabon. Participants included National Coordinators from 21 Central and West African countries, along with representatives of international and regional organizations and the Government of Gabon.

The workshop adopted the terms of reference of the focal point, established the criteria for selecting the members of the steering committee of the focal point and the institution to host its secretariat, and elected the members of the first steering committee. The workshop declared the formal establishment of the focal point and formulated its programme of work for 2011 to 2014. The workshop culminated with the adoption of the “Libreville Declaration”, which summarized the outcomes. An important element contributing to the establishment of the focal point was the creation of the discussion group DAD-Net Central and West Africa, a network created to serve as a platform for information sharing and collaboration on AnGR-related issues. Electronic discussion fora were organized prior to each regional workshop.

Since the establishment of the S-RFP in West and Central Africa, it is observed that there are severe challenges in accomplishing the agreed activities. One of the main challenges is related to the institutional anchorage and the lack of linkages or attachments to any regional institution which would have provided stability and a sense of belonging. This hindered the implementation of the programme and coordination with the regional partners and structures. As a result, the S-RFP in West and Central Africa has kept a low profile and did not position itself as a regional institution neither in Central Africa nor in West Africa.

Moreover, few activities included in the agreed roadmap have been conducted since 2011, engendering thus an urgent and felt need to strengthen the S-RFP in Central and West Africa and ensure that it serves the purposes for which it was created, and consolidates the activities launched. The lessons learnt, over the years, from attempts to establish S-RFPs, have supported the desire to succeed and ensure that Member States, RECs and all other stakeholders involved in AnGR, benefit from the networking and cooperation created among these institutions.

The Genetics project implemented by AU-IBAR and the TCP/RAF/3403 “Assistance for a Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa”, have key activities that seek to strengthen and/or establish S-RFPs in the different geographic regions of Africa. In collaboration with FAO, the project has managed to initiate the process of establishment of S-RFPs for Eastern (Kampala) and Southern Africa (Harare), in March and April 2014, respectively. The experience gained from both initiatives has prompted the need to revisit the process already started in 2011 in Central and West Africa.

Objectives

Principal Objective:

The principal objective of the workshop was to strengthen the S-RFP in West and Central Africa for the improved management of AnGR in the regions through better coordination and networking.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives were as follows:

- Assess the progress made in the implementation of the activities of the SRFP since the last meeting in Libreville in 2011;
- Agree on the most desirable institutional set-up considering the progress assessed, the present institutional environment in Central and in West Africa
- Agree/confirm the geographical coverage of the S-RFP or otherwise decide;
- Select institution(s) to host the secretariat of the S-RFP(s);
- Elect Steering committee(s) for the S-RFP(s);
- Propose a mechanism for the sustainability of S-RFP(s) beyond projects support

Participants

The workshop brought together about 30 participants from countries of Central and West Africa, among them National Coordinators of animal genetic resources for Central and West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Chad and Togo), the focal points of the Genetics Project of the AU-IBAR, representatives of the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), representatives of the CEBEVIRHA, of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), of the United Nation Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), of the CORAF/WECARD, of the International Centre for Sub-humid Livestock Research and Development (CIRDES), of the International Trypanotolerance Centre (ITC) as well as cadres of the Ministry of Cattle Breeding and Water of the Republic of Chad.

Workshop methodology

The workshop took place in two stages, namely 1) a General Assembly held on 28th and 29th August 2014 and 2) the meeting of the Steering Committees held on 30th August 2014. The different sessions took the form of presentations, group work and plenary sessions on specific themes.

For the group work, the groups were formed according to regional groupings of the participants and the countries hosting the headquarters of institutions in West and Central Africa.

The sessions were chaired by Chad and Togo, the secretariat services were provided by Cameroon and Niger and the facilitation was done by the AU-IBAR and the FAO.

As a prelude to the sessions, the workshop agenda was examined and adopted. This was followed by a presentation on the objectives and the results expected from the workshop. This was followed by individual introductions by all the participants.

Proceedings of the workshop

General Assembly:

Session 1: Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Mr Issa Ali Taher, Minister of Livestock and Hydraulic of the Republic of Chad. During this ceremony four (4) speeches were made, one after the other, by Mr Dieudonné Kissiekiaoua, Deputy Director General of the CEBEVIRHA, Dr Simplicie Nouala, representatives of the Director of AU-IBAR, Mr Marc Abdala, Resident Representative of the FAO in Chad, and His Excellency Mr Issa Ali Taher, Minister of Livestock and Hydraulic of the Republic of Chad, who officially opened the workshop.

In his words of introduction, the representative of the Director of the CEBEVIRHA first welcomed the workshop participants. He said that his institution was most pleased to host this sub-regional meeting for the better management of animal genetic resources.

For his part, the representative of 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 emphasized the key tasks of the global community as regards the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of animal genetic resources as well as the central role of this community in resolving current global challenges namely global food security and the fight against poverty. On the continent, he continued, the sustainable management of animal genetic resources is more than a priority to which public bodies give utmost importance particularly in the context of attaining objectives around accelerated transformation of agriculture in Africa in order to achieve shared prosperity and improved means of subsistence, objectives adopted by the heads of state and governments of the AU during the Malabo summit in June 2014. He recalled the process of establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points for animal genetic resources in West and Central Africa (S-RFP/WCA) since the meetings in Dakar, Senegal in 2010 and Libreville, Gabon in 2011, which also served as a basis for the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points in other African regions. Regarding the expectations of the workshop, he insisted that it should serve as an opportunity to take stock on progress made and future plans. He expressed the hope that the workshop would serve to re-energise the S-RFP of West and Central Africa, while deciding whether or not to maintain a single focal point for the two regions, with, as sole aim, the sustainability of its impact on the breeders whom we all serve, whatever our institutions. Dr Nouala emphasized the various and specific nature of each country as far as management of animal genetic resources. He called for flexibility in the implementation of established procedures and declared his institution was prepared to support the S-RFP/WCA. Finally he thanked the AU-IBAR, the FAO and the RECs as well as the Government of the Republic of Chad accepting to host and support the meeting.

The FAO Resident Representative in Chad, for his part, recalled the process of the elaboration of the Global Plan of Action for the management of animal genetic resources by the FAO and its adoption by the countries at Interlaken, Switzerland in 2007. This key agreement marks, he said, the individual and common commitment and responsibility of the Member States to the sustainable management of animal genetic resources. Finally, he emphasized on the progress made by the SRFP/WCA in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action since its establishment in Libreville in 2011, thanks to cooperation between AU-IBAR and the FAO, made possible by the

Technical Cooperation Programme in progress. The FAO, as Global Focal Point, has great expectations from this workshop, particularly its recommendations concerning progress made, a suitable institutional framework and sustainable financing structure for the SRFP. Mr Marc Abdala ended by expressing sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Chad for hosting the event, to the CEBAVIRHA for offering the venue to host the meetings. Finally, he called on all the participants to deepen their discussions, their exchanges and their inter-regional partnerships, before wishing the workshop much success.

For his part, His Excellency Issa Ali Taher, Minister of Livestock and Hydraulic of the Republic of Chad, after having welcomed the participants to Chad, outlined the role of the livestock breeding sector in the area of food security and the fight against poverty in his country. He then reminded the meeting of some of the achievements of the Government of Chad in the area of the Livestock development, due to the priority place given to rural development and livestock breeding in the national policies. This is evidenced by, among others: - the adoption of a development plan based on the improvement of production infrastructures and the transformation of animal products - the creation and operation of a quality control centre that certifies food safety - the establishment of a food security programme - the establishment of a livestock census programme - the adoption of a pastoral code. He then made a link between the current workshop and the national strategy in this area. Finally, he thanked the AU-IBAR, the FAO and the CEBAVIRHA for choosing Chad to host the said workshop, for its financing and perfect organization. While calling on the participants to have pertinent and rich discussions, he declared the sub-regional workshop on the Strengthening of Capacities for the management of animal genetic resources in Central and West Africa open.

Session 2: Report by the Sub-Regional Focal Point on animal genetic resources for West and Central Africa (S-RFP/WCA)

Three presentations were made during this session and one group work session was held, followed by a plenary session. The presentations were compiled by a group of writers composed of Mr. Alassane Diallo from PROGEBE, Professor Cheick Ly, M. Badi Besbes both from the FAO and Dr. Richard Osei-Amponsah, Lecturer at the University of Legon in Ghana. The presentations by Professor Cheick Ly and Dr. Richard Osei-Amponsah dealt with the management of the S-RFP/WCA, the host institution, the Steering Committee, activities undertaken and contributions made.

a. The Presentations

- i. From the presentation on the activities of the S-RFP for West and Central Africa, it was pointed, among others, the organization and holding of 4 workshops (Dakar in March 2010, Libreville in June 2011, Lomé in December 2011 and N'Djamena in August 2014), support to member states in the area of formulation of policies on breeding through a participatory approach and the capacity building of the National Coordinators to produce national reports on animal genetic resources. Other activities of the Secretariat of the S-RFP/WCA included the synthesis report on the electronic discussions, the organisation of the Steering Committee meetings, and the preparation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) in implementation by AU-IBAR.
- ii. The presentations on the selection criteria of institutions to host the Secretariat of the S-RFP for West and Central Africa, built on those prepared and presented in Libreville in 2011 by the Steering Committee. They were reviewed and adopted by the General Assembly. The chapter relating to "Terms of reference of the Sub-Regional Focal Point on Animal Genetic Resources for West and Central Africa (SRFP-RGA-WCA)" served as a basis for this, particularly section 4 relating to "Operational structure of the Structure of the S-RFP" comprising : - The General Assembly (GA), Steering Committee (SC), and the Secretariat.

Selection criteria of this last organ (the Secretariat) are the same as those for selecting the structure or institution to host the Focal Point. The key criteria are :

- National or sub-regional organisations active in the area of animal genetic resources to serve for a renewable mandate of four (4) years;
 - Must be headed by a regional coordinator, preferably a National Coordinator of the host country or the head of a host regional institution;
 - The tasks to be undertaken by the regional coordinator, namely: - organise the General Assembly – provide secretariat services for the S-RFP – Implement decisions of the GA and the SC and support agreed projects - provide financial management - submit regular technical and financial reports - disseminate useful information on animal genetic resources between the networks of the National Coordinators and FAO’s global networks using the S-RFP newsletter, the DAD-NET West and Central Africa, the website of the S-RFP etc.
- iii. The final presentation focused on the terms of reference and the criteria for the Steering Committee (SC); it also focused on those prepared and presented in Libreville in 2011 by the Steering Committee. They were finally adopted by the General Assembly. From the presentation, the main criteria for the Steering Committee are as follows :
- *Its composition* : members elected by the Assembly and including National Coordinators, representatives of RECs, international or continental institutions, representatives of breeders’ organisations, representatives of specialized institutions (research/training),
 - *Its mandate* : two years;
 - *Its voting system* : An elected chair with a deciding vote in the event of a deadlock,
 - *Who caters for its members?* the institutions from which the members are drawn.

b. The group work sessions

The presentations were followed by intense debates which culminated in the formation of two working groups (Central Africa and West Africa) to deliberate on two key questions:

- i. What are the key challenges facing the S-RFP/WCA and what solutions can be proposed to remedy these challenges?
- ii. Is it necessary to proceed with the separation of the S-RFP for West and Central Africa and what would be the reasons/motivation?

At the end of their deliberations the two groups met in plenary. Their views are summarised in the table below:

N°	Challenges to meet	Proposed Solutions
1	Insufficient funds	Effective support of States and International Organizations on AnGRs in the sub-region
2	Insufficient personnel	Recruitment and training of officers
3	Lack of functional cohesion between the members of the Focal Point for West and Central Africa	Increase cohesion between the members of the Focal Point for West and Central Africa
4	Untimely change of Country representatives	Sustaining national coordinators
5	Negative influence of the prevailing security situation	Involvement of the regional, sub-regional bodies and international organizations in the resolution of conflicts
6	Inappropriate institutional anchorage	Adapt the institutional framework of the Focal Point to the sub-regional and regional realities

7	How to help countries implement the Global Plan of Action?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the establishment of National Coordination Committees - Technical support (capacity building of National Coordinators) - Encourage exchanges between National Coordinators of AnGRs and National Focal Points of the Genetics Project - Organise an electronic forum on resources mobilisation
8	How to gain the engagement of regional, sub-regional institutions ECOWAS, UEMOA, CEEAC, CEMAC?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lobbying the RECs - Involve professional organizations - Development of national strategies on AnGRs
9	How to secure funding for the National Coordination Committees?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build into national budgets a line for AnGRs - Take into consideration the running and the operation costs of the national committee on projects
10	How to secure funding for the S-RFP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seek contributions by the host institution of the secretariat, the FAO, the AU-IBAR - Financing from regional and sub-regional institutions
11	How to improve communication in the sub-region?	Establish a discussion network at national level

In respect of the head of states' commitments concerning the CEBEVIRHA; given the peculiarities of each sub-region (REC) as well as for easy coordination and the mobility of the Focal Point's members, also in view of preserving efficiency and get the buy-in by the RECs (CEMAC, ECCAS, CEDEAO, UEMOA), the two (2) working groups from West and Central Africa have opted for the establishment of two (2) distinct Sub-Regional Focal Points.

The Assembly agreed to retain:

- The CEBEVIRHA as the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Central Africa after consultation with the countries of central Africa; the steering committee will be made up of elected representatives of the member states namely Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and Chad, who will be joined by ECCAS (as Chair), FAO, PRASAC, AU-IBAR and the University of Dschang.
- The CORAF/WECARD to provide the Secretariat for the S-RFP for West Africa after consultation with the countries of West Africa; the Steering Committee shall be made up of elected representatives of the member states who are Ghana, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Benin, who will be joined by CORAF/WECARD, ROPPA, RBM, APESS, ECOWAS who will provide the chairmanship, the ITC/WALIC, CIRDES, FAO, AU-IBAR and the University of Ghana.
- However ECOWAS and civil society organisations absent from the workshop will be contacted and their approval and participation sought.

Session 3: Establishment of the regional system for the management of animal genetic resources: institutional aspects

Within the framework of this session, the workshop heard six (6) presentations followed by discussions in two working groups.

a. The presentations :

- i. Two presentations were made by Prof Cheikh Ly on the terms of reference (ToRs) for the two studies previously commissioned in the framework of the technical cooperation project between the regional office FAO and AU-IBAR "Assistance to the regional initiative on the management of animal genetic resources in Africa". The studies refer to "the role of pastoralism in the management of animal genetic

resources in West and Central Africa” and *“the status, identification and traceability of livestock in West and Central Africa and their impact on breeding”*.

The first study aims to gain a solid base for the mobilization of support to the institutions favourable to pastoralists in order to enable the continued use of rangelands by maintaining the pastoralist breeds.

The second study will focus on the impact of cattle trade on animal genetic resources in West and Central Africa. Working from current trade flows, projections, current legislation in place, the study is expected to generate recommendations of measures to put in place in order to reduce the effect of commercial trade on the dilution of species, and recommendations on the systems of livestock identification and recording. Leaning on a methodology based on the review of literature and the administration of electronic questionnaires using Survey Monkey sent to the national coordinators, the two studies should over time allow the production of two concept notes for regional pilot projects, namely on *“the improvement of pastoralism for better management utilization of animal genetic resources in the target countries in the sub-regions”* and *“the establishment of a system of identification and registration of animals in the target countries in the sub-regions”*.

He said that the ToRs will be the object of additional commentary by the AU-IBAR in order to finalize the ToRs and allow a quick start of the studies.

- ii. On the process of establishing the two S-RFPs in West and Central Africa, the participants attended two exposes presented by the institutions competing to host the S-RFPs secretariats.

The deputy director general of CEBEVIRHA, Mr Dieudonné Kissiekiaoua, informed the workshop that his institution was created in 1987 by the Member States of the CEMAC and its activities started in 1991. Specialized Commission for CEMAC in livestock breeding, fisheries and aquaculture and based in N'Djamena, Chad, its general mission is to contribute to the sustainable development of the countries of the Central Africa sub-region, support member states in the development of livestock breeding, fisheries and aquaculture. CEBEVIRHA has a strategic plan to orient member states. Armed with solid experience, CEBEVIRHA is well-placed to house the secretariat of the S-RFP for Central Africa. The presentation was followed by questions to which the facilitator provided appropriate answers.

The expose entitled *“CORAF/WECARD and the S-RFP on the management of the animal genetic resources in West Africa”* developed by Dr Hamadé Kagoné first focused on the challenges to the livestock breeding sub-sector posed by the imbalance between the demand for (4% per year) and supply of (2% per year) animal products and the net increase in trade of dairy products in the ECOWAS space, from 323 million dollars in 2000 to 741 million dollars in 2008, that is an increase of 129%. Suggestions were made on sustainable means to considerably increase the demand in animal products in a context of stiff competition for resources and against the need to take into account emerging issues such as climate change, pressure for land, degradation of biodiversity, emerging and re-emerging diseases. Due to the necessity of increasing the productivity of livestock breeding by at least 6% per year between now and 2015, it was emphasized that animal genetic products were an important factor for the sustainable development of livestock breeding in West and Central Africa. CORAF/WECARD was created in 1987 and it covers a space of 417 million inhabitants and brings together SNRA of 22 African countries. CORAF/WECARD aims to sustainably reduce poverty and food insecurity in West and Central Africa. Its mission is to sustainably increase the productivity and sustainability of agricultural markets in West and Central Africa. CORAF/WECARD is at the centre of a rich and diverse partnership. It is committed to results-oriented management and takes into account gender and diversity. Its Livestock Breeding, Fishing and Aquaculture programme fits squarely within the framework of research for the development of animal genetic resources. For all the above reasons, CORAF/WECARD was presented as being well-placed to house the secretariat of the S-RFP for West Africa in the area of management of animal genetic resources.

- iii. The last two presentations focused on the reports of the online forum that took place from 1st November 2013 to 15th December 2013:

The first presentation, entitled *“Report of the online forum on the regional priorities for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources in West and Central Africa: analysis of priorities”* summarized the priorities by emphasizing the classifications described as priority by the Global Plan of Action (GPA) on animal genetic resources. These priority areas are conduct of inventory, description, sustainable utilization and development, conservation, policy, institutions and capacity building.

Another presentation was the *“Report on the online forum for coordination of activities on the establishment of the RFP on animal genetic resources and role of stakeholders”*. A discussion followed on building capacity in order to move towards establishing a RFP, building capacity for the coordination of activities, communication between the NFPs, the NCs and the NCC, the sensitization of producers and their organizations, national governments and their role as well as the role of the AU-IBAR.

b. Group sessions

On the basis of the issues raised, the participants continued their consultations in two groups in order to establish the sub-regional priorities according to the priority areas of the GPA then later discussed them in plenary.

On the role of stakeholders, the role of National Coordinators, and Focal Points of the Genetics Project, particularly around initiating, coordinating, executing and monitoring and evaluating activities at the national level was confirmed. Equally, the strategic role of the RECs in the harmonisation and coordination at the sub-regional level was mentioned, as well as the essential contribution of breeders, livestock and livestock products value chain actors, technical and financial partners, as well as continental and global actors.

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

Meetings of the Steering Committees:

30 August 2014 was set aside for the first meetings of the steering committees of the S-RFPs for West and Central Africa. The meetings were held around the following agenda:

- Election of the bureau : a Chair and a Secretary ;
- Elaboration of the working methodology of the Steering Committee;
- Identification of priority activities;
- Elaboration of a work plan for the next 6 months
- Define an idea for a regional project.

The detailed reports of the two steering committee meetings compiled by the respective S-RFP Secretariats are included in the annex on this report.

Closing of the workshop

The closing of the workshop was chaired by the Director General in charge of the Value Chains in Chad, representing the Minister of Livestock and Hydraulic. The closing ceremony was marked by three speeches, by the representative of the director of the AU-IBAR, the speech by the delegate of the Resident Representative of the FAO and the closing speech was made by the Director General in charge of the Value Chains in Chad, representing the Minister for Livestock and Hydraulic.

In his speech, Dr Simplicie Nouala, representing the director of the AU-IBAR thanked the participants for the ambiance and the quality of achievements following intense deliberations and exchanges.

The delegate of the Resident Representative of the FAO insisted on the importance of the N’Djamena meeting that ended with the establishment of two S-RFPs for West and Central Africa for the management of animal genetic resources. He called on states to further support the S-RFPs and the management of animal genetic resources.

The closing speech by the Director General in charge of the Value Chains in Chad, Dr Dokdaï Hounly Marc, representative of the Minister of Livestock and Hydraulic spoke about the seriousness of the issues dealt with during the workshop. Dr Dokdaï said the establishment of the two S-RFPs and the building of their capacity comes from goodwill from the Member States to improve the management of animal genetic resources. This is why Chad did not hesitate for one instant to host the meeting which has generated such pertinent results in such a short time. He then thanked FAO, AU-IBAR and CEBEVIRHA for having financed and organized the workshop. Finally, while hoping that the parallel meetings of the two S-RFPs will provide appropriate guidance, Dr Dokdaï wished the participants a safe return to their homes and declared the sub-regional workshop on capacity building in the management of animal genetic resources in West and Central Africa closed.

Conclusions / Recommendations

In conclusion of the deliberations of the workshop, and beside the recommendations stated in the final communiqué, the following recommendations were also made with regard to the two institutions that organised the workshop:

- AU-IBAR should help CEBEVIRHA in terms of human resources to manage the newly-established Secretariat;
- AU-IBAR should finalize the report on the workshop and make it available to all the participants to the workshop and other contributors;
- AU-IBAR, FAO and their respective Secretariats should finalize the final communiqué of the workshop and share it with all the participants to the workshop and other contributors;
- AU-IBAR should inform all the stakeholders on the process of establishment of the S-RFPs for West and Central Africa;
- AU-IBAR, FAO and their respective Secretariats should develop communication and sensitization strategies and present them to the S-RFPs for the campaigns for support ;
- AU-IBAR, FAO and their respective Secretariats should prepare a common press release which will be published on their various websites;
- The respective Secretariats of the S-RFPs will develop their own annual work plan;
- The studies presented by FAO in the framework of the du TCP should be submitted to AU-IBAR before publication and signing contracts with consultants.

Annexes

1. List of participants
2. Agenda of the Workshop
3. Communiqué of the Workshop
4. Steering Committee meeting report of the S-RFP for Central Africa
5. Steering Committee meeting report of the S-RFP for West Africa

Annex 1: List of participants

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Annex 2: Agenda of the Workshop



Strengthening of capacities for Animal Genetic Resources in Central and West Africa

Proposed Agenda

DAY ONE		
Session 1: Opening		
09:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Opening ceremony • Introductions of participants • Workshop objectives • Adoption of agenda 	AU-IBAR/FAO ECOWAS & ECCAS Min. Pastoral Dev. & Animal Production
Session 2: Status of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for West and Central Africa		
09:30	Presentation of the progress report of the S-RFP	Secretariat
10:00	Discussions	All
10:45	Coffee break & Group Photo	
11:15	Group work on options to strengthen the S-RFP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the challenges faced by the S-RFP in West & Central Africa and proposition of solution to address them & enable the S-RFP to perform better? • Is there a need for separation of the SRFP in West and Central Africa, and what are the reasons supporting the separation? 	All
12:00	Presentation of Group work and discussions	Groups
13:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Criteria for the selection of the Host institutions	Secretariat
14:30	Designation of Institution(s) to host Secretariat(s)	All
15:45	Coffee break	
16:15	Terms of References of the Steering Committee, and Criteria for the candidature to the Steering Committee (SC)	Secretariat
16:45	Election of the members of the Steering Committee(s)	
17:15	Closure for the day	
DAY TWO		
Session 2: Establishment of regional management of AnGR : Institutional aspects		
08:30	Presentation of the TORs of various studies under the TCP	FAO
09:00	Group discussions on the technical themes	All
10:00	Presentation of Group work and Discussions	
10:30	Health break	
11:00	Report on the E-Forum on regional priorities for the sustainable management of animal genetic resources (AnGR) in West and Central Africa - Analysis of the priorities	Consultants FAO
11:30	Group work on priority actions for the S-RFP(s) (2014-2017)	All
12:15	Presentation of Group work and discussions	Groups
13:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Establishment of Regional Gene Bank	AU-IBAR
14:30	Report on the E-Forum on co-ordination of activities for the establishment of a Regional Focal Point (RFP) on Animal Genetic Resources and on the role of stakeholders on AnGR	Consultants
15:00	Group work	Groups
16:00	Health break	
16:30	Group work	All
17:00	Presentation of Group work and discussions	Groups
18:00	Closure for the day	All
DAY THREE		
Session 3: Establishment of regional management of AnGR: re-establishing Sub-Regional Focal Point		
09:00	Meeting of the SC elected Way forward on Coordination mechanisms and resources Action plan(s)	SC and other observers
12:00	Update on Establishment of Status and Trends on AnGR	AU-IBAR/ FAO
13:00	Lunch break	
14:00	Closure of the Workshop	All



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF CAPACITIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES IN CENTRAL AND WEST AFRICA

**28th - 30th August 2014
N'Djamena, Chad**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In the framework of the implementation of two initiatives that are, the AU-IBAR Genetics project "*Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources*" and the technical cooperation project between the Regional Office of FAO and AU-IBAR "*Assistance for a Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa*" was held in N'Djamena, Chad from 28th to 30th August 2014, the regional workshop on "Strengthening capacities on the genetic resources management in Central Africa and the West".
2. The main objective was to strengthen the capacity of the sub-regional focal point (S-RFP) for West and Central Africa in order to improve the management of animal genetic resources through better coordination and networking. The specific objectives were to :
 - Assess the progress made in the implementation of the activities of the SRFP since the last meeting in Libreville in 2011;
 - Agree on the most desirable institutional set-up considering the progress assessed, the present institutional environment in West and in Central Africa;
 - Agree/confirm the geographical coverage of the S-RFP or otherwise decide;
 - Select institution(s) to host the secretariat of the S-RFP(s);
 - Elect Steering committee(s) for the S-RFP(s);
 - Propose a mechanism for the sustainability of S-RFP(s) beyond projects support.
3. Attended to the workshop, national coordinators of animal genetic resources, the focal points for the AU-IBAR project genetics from West and Central Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Chad and Togo), representatives of sub-regional, regional and international institutions, namely CEBEVIRHA, ECCAS, CIRDES, CORAF/WECARD, FAO, ITC/WALIC and AU-IBAR.
4. The workshop which was held in the premises of CEBEVIRHA was officially opened by His Excellency Mr Issa Ali TAHER, Minister of livestock and water in the presence of the Special Adviser for livestock to the Prime Minister, Mr Marc Abdala, Country Representative of the FAO in Chad and Dr Simplicie Nouala representing the Director of the AU-IBAR.

II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP

5. The workshop was held in two stages, including the General Assembly held on 28th and 29th August 2014 and the Steering Committee meeting held on 30th August 2014.
6. The General Assembly has listened to various presentations including on:
 - a. The activity report of the S-RFP for West and Central Africa.
 - b. The criteria of selection of institutions to host the secretariat of S-RFP for West and Central Africa;
 - c. The terms of reference and the criteria for the candidature to the Steering Committee (SC);
 - d. The outcomes of the different electronic forums on the regional priorities for sustainable management of animal genetic resources in West and Central Africa and on the coordination of the activities for the establishment of the Regional Focal Point on animal genetic resources and the role of stakeholders.

7. Participants, then dealt in plenary and group work with the themes related to:
 - a. The challenges faced by the S-RFP for West and Central Africa and proposed solutions to remedy;
 - b. The need or not to create a focal point for each of the Western and Central sub-regions, but also perspectives on coordination mechanisms and the mobilization of resources.
8. The first meetings of the newly established Steering committees were held on 30th August 2014 at CEBEVIRHA headquarters.

III ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE WORKSHOP

After debating in General Assembly, participants reached to the following results:

9. The activity report of the S-RFP (Progress accomplished in the implementation of the 2011 - 2014 Programme)

The progress made since 2011 were presented to the Assembly. They were in majority formed of, the reports of e-discussions, the felicitation of workshops and Steering Committee meetings, and the preparation of the TCP currently being implemented by the AU-IBAR/FAO. At the end of the presentation, the Assembly thanked the Interim Steering Committee and the outgoing Secretariat for the important work done.

10. On the geographical coverage of the Sub-regional focal point

After discussions in group and in plenary, the option of retaining two sub-regional focal points was unanimously adopted with a sub-regional focal point for Central Africa and a sub-regional focal point for West Africa.

11. The criteria of selection of institutions to host the secretariat of S-RFP for West and Central Africa

The criteria prepared and presented, in Libreville in 2011, by the Steering Committee were recalled to the Assembly and adopted. Expressions of interest have been notified or confirmed officially by the CEBEVIRHA for Central Africa and CORAF/WECARD for West Africa. Each of the candidates presented their mandate, mission and activities, in particular in the field of AnGRs.

12. On the Constitution of the Sub-Regional Focal Points

- The Assembly retained CEBEVIRHA to host the Secretariat of the S-RFP for Central Africa after consultation of the countries of Central Africa.
- The Assembly retained CORAF/WECARD to host the Secretariat of the S-RFP for West Africa after consultation of the countries of West Africa.
- The Steering Committee for Central Africa is made up of representatives of elected Member States that are Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and Chad which will be joined by ECCAS as chair, FAO, PRASAC, AU-IBAR and the University of Dschang (Cameroon).
- The Steering Committee for West Africa will be constituted of representatives of elected Member States that are Ghana, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Niger and Benin which will be joined by CORAF/WECARD, ROPPA, RBM, APESS, ECOWAS as Chair, ITC/WALIC, CIRDES, FAO, AU-IBAR and the University of Ghana.
- ECOWAS and nominated civil society organizations, which did not attend the workshop, will be contacted for their approval and organize their participation.

13. On the priority actions

The outcomes of electronic discussions were presented with emphasis on the recommendations ranked by priority area as per those of the Global Plan of Action for AnGRs. These recommendations relate, among others to capacity-building, advocacy and harmonisation of protocols and characterization tools.

14. On the perspectives regarding the coordination mechanisms and resources mobilisation

The following recommendations were made:

- Avail at each country level a national action plan, if it does not exist yet or update it;
- Promote consultation with the RECs and other institutions in the field of the AnGRs by the sub-regional focal points;
- Support and promote the mobilization of resources;
- Assess the capacity of the institutions and the past coordination mechanisms;
- Develop a database of actors and hold periodic consultative and coordination meetings.

15. On the role of stakeholders

On the role of stakeholders, it was confirmed that the central role of national coordinators and Focal Points of the genetics project is to initiate, coordinate, execute and monitor the actions at the national level.

The strategic role of the RECs in the harmonization and coordination at the sub-regional level was also mentioned, as well as the essential contribution of livestock keepers, the actors of the sectors of the livestock and animal products, technical and financial partners, as well as actors at the continental and global level.

16. On the challenges to be addressed by the S-RFP for West and Central Africa and proposed remedy solutions

The Assembly has identified the challenges and proposed following solutions:

- a. Considering the difficulties faced by countries in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, the General Assembly proposes to ensure the establishment of the national coordination committees, to provide technical support to strengthen the capacities of coordinators national, to encourage exchanges between national coordinators and national focal points of the genetics project and to organize an electronic forum on resources mobilization;
- b. Considering the difficulties to engage regional and sub-regional institutions including ECOWAS, UEMOA, ECCAS and CEMAC, the General Assembly recommends that lobbying actions be conducted with the regional economic communities, to involve the professional organizations and formulate national strategies on AnGRs;
- c. Considering the funding challenge of the National Coordination Committees, the General Assembly recommends to allocate in the national budgets of the countries, budget lines which take into account AnGRs and provide operation costs of the national Committee in the budget of the projects;
- d. Considering the challenge of financing the S-RFP, the General Assembly recommends to solicit the support of host institutions of the secretariats, FAO and AU-IBAR, as well as from regional and sub-regional Institutions;
- e. Considering the challenge of improving communication in the sub-regions, the General Assembly recommends to set up a discussion platform and a network for partnership at national level.

17. On the prioritisation of the activities to be implemented by each S-RFP

After the exchanges in two working groups (West and Central Africa) and restitution in plenary, the priorities were ranked in term of inventory and characterization, utilization and sustainable development, conservation, policies, institutions and capacity-building.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18. For resource mobilisation to enable the S-RFPs to sustainably operate, the General Assembly seeks effective financial support the States, the RECs and the development partners.
19. The General Assembly recommends the strengthening of collaboration between the members of the sub-regional focal points for West Africa and Central Africa in order to encourage exchanges between national coordinators and national focal points of the genetics project and to strengthen coordination on AnGRs related initiatives and activities.
20. The General Assembly recommends that after the establishment of the different focal points, information and advocacy actions be carried towards Member States and awareness raising with all stakeholders on the importance of animal genetic resources.
21. The General Assembly recommends that the terms of reference on studies under the TCP, be reviewed jointly by FAO, AU-IBAR and the States before advertisement for the recruitment of consultants and the launching of studies.
22. Commending Member States for the fraternal atmosphere that reigned at the decision of creating two sub-regional focal points, respectively for West Africa and Central Africa, the General Assembly recommends the two steering committees newly established to develop multi-year work plans.
23. Participants addressed their sincere appreciations to the Government of the Republic of Chad, to the CEBEVIRHA, FAO and AU-IBAR for the warm welcome and the perfect organization of the workshop.
24. The reports of the steering committee meetings are annexed to this final release.

N'Djamena, 30th August 2014

The General Assembly

Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources for Central Africa (S-RFP - AnGR - CA)

**Minutes of the first meeting
of the Steering Committee**

SC - 1/2014

30th August 2014
CEBEVIRHA (N'Djamena/CHAD)

Secretariat of S-RFP - AnGR – CA
CEBEVIRHA BP. N'Djamena Chad



United Nations Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)



African Union-Inter-African Bureau for
Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)



Economic Commission on Cattle, Meat and
Fish Resources (CEBEVIRHA)

Minutes of the First Steering Committee meeting of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic resources in Central Africa (PFS-R-RZG-AO)

30th August 2014
CEBEVIRHA, N'Djamena, Chad

The first Steering Committee (SC) meeting of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal genetic Resources in Central Africa (S-RFP-AnGR-CA) was held on Saturday, 30th August 2014 in the meeting room of the Economic Commission for Cattle, Meat and Fish Resources (CEBEVIRHA). The establishment of the said steering committee is based on the follow up of one of the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on “Strengthening the Capacities in the Management of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) in Central and West Africa held from 28th to 30th August 2014 in N'Djamena, Chad.

Participants

Present:

- Representatives of countries elected in the SC (Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and Chad),
- Representatives of CEBEVIRHA, Ministry of Livestock and Hydraulic in Chad, FAO and AU-IBAR;
- Resource persons and observers from Cameroon, DRC, Chad, Congo and the Central African Republic.

Absent:

- Other member States of S-RFP-AnGR-CA including; Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe
- Representatives of Institutions elected as members of Steering Committee: PRASAC, University of Dschang and PROPAC who had not participated in the workshop.

Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was accepted and adopted as follows:

- Presentation of the Steering Committee
- Election of the Presidium (Chairman and Secretary) of the Steering Committee
- Work method of the Steering Committee
- Review of the S-RFP work program
- Results expected in six months
- Identification of projects and project ideas

1. Presentation of the first S-RFP-AnGR-CA Steering Committee

List of absent members of the Steering Committee:

- The National Coordinator of Equatorial Guinea
- The National Coordinator of Sao Tome and Principe
- The representative of PRASAC
- The representative of PROPAC (Regional Platform of Farmers Organisations of Central Africa)
- The representative of IPAR-CEMAC (Inter-profession poultry association for the CEMAC region)

- The representative of CREBAC (Regional Confederation of cattle farmers)
- The representative of the FAO Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa
- The representative of the University of Dschang

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6.	CEEAC	Dr Baschirou Demsa	Focal Point Vet-Gov Central Africa	<i>Baschirou.moussa@yahoo.fr</i>
7.	UA-BIRA	Dr Simplicie Nouala	Chief Animal Production Officer / Head of Animal Production Unit	Museum Hill, Westlands Road; P.O Box 30786 00100 Nairobi, Kenya ; Tél. : +254 20 367400 (Bureau) ; +254 724 016 522 (Cel.) Email : nouala.simplice@au-ibar.org ou nouala@hotmail.com
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2. Election of the Presidium of the Steering Committee

The Representative of ECCAS, Dr. BASCHIROU DEMSA was proposed by AU-IBAR and was elected by acclamation.

CEBEVIRHA was chosen for the Secretariat of S-RFP – AnGR - CA.

Dr. Vitalis CHEPND, national Coordinator of Cameroon, was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Method of work for PFSR

It was agreed that the Steering Committee of S-RFP – AnGR - CA will carry out its work through electronic conferences and physical meetings. It is expected that there will be at least one physical meeting and an electronic conference per year.

The General Assembly (GA) of the S-RFP – AnGR - CA is scheduled to meet every two years.

4. The PFS-R Work program

The Secretariat was requested to prepare and propose a 2014-2016 work program to the members of the Steering Committee for approval coupled with the expected results for the first six months and the identified projects latest by 6 September 2014.

The work program of the Secretariat for S-RFP – AnGR - CA was retained as follows:

No.	Activities	Responsible	Deadline 2014
1	Create a Drop Box account for the Steering Committee of the S-RFP – AnGR - CA	Secretariat	01 September
2	Contact elected members of the SC who have not attended the workshop (PRASAC ROPPA) to inform them of their appointment and get their agreement.	SC Chairman and Secretariat with the support of FAO and CEBEVIRHA	02 September
3	Finalize and send the minutes of the 1 st Meeting of the Steering Committee (in PDF format) to the members and all stakeholders.	Chairperson and Secretariat	02 September
4	Request DAD-FAO to create a DAD-CA website	Secretariat and FAO	02 September
	Preparation and uploading of information note on the workshop on DAD-NET website for wide dissemination on the creation of S-RFP for the management of AnGR in Central Africa.	FAO Secretariat	02 September
5	Contact Mr Alassane Diallo, of the former Central and West Africa secretariat, to obtain all records including the 2011-2014 work plan for inspiration and to propose a zero draft of the PFSR -AC 2014-2016 work plan.	Secretariat	02 September
	Forward the draft-zero work plan to the members of the Steering Committee	Secretariat	06 September
	Submit a list of proposed S-RFP–AnGR-CA project ideas	Secretariat and Dr. CHEPNDA Vitalis	06 September
6	The Secretariat to write a letter to be sent by AU-IBAR to the Ministries in charge of livestock in various ECCASS and CEMAC/CEBEVIRHA countries, to technical research and training institutions in AnGR (IRAD, PRASAC) and to umbrella organizations for producers (IPAR-CEMAC, CREBAC and PROPAC) to: (1) inform and sensitise them on the implementation of the S-RFP, roles and activities, and (2) Clarify their expected role and seek their official involvement and regular participation in its activities.	Secretariat and AU-IBAR	10 September
7	Transmission of observations, comments and contributions of the Steering Committee members to the Secretariat for harmonization	Members of the Steering Committee	13 September
8	Transmission of the 2014-2016 S-RFP–AnGR-CA work plan to the members of the Steering Committee	Secretariat	20 September

Having exhausted the points of the agenda, the meeting which started at 0900h, was closed at 1130h.

For Secretariat

President

LIMAN MOHAMA and CHEPNDA Vitalis

BASCHIROU Demsa

Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources in West Africa (S-RFP - AnGR - OA)

Minutes of the First Steering Committee Meeting

SC - 1/2014

30th August 2014
CEBEVIRHA (N'Djamena / CHAD)

S-RFP – AnGR - OA Secretariat
CORAF/WECARD BP. Dakar/ SENEGAL



United Nations Food and Agriculture
Organization (FAO)



African Union-Inter-African Bureau for
Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)



West and Central African Council for
Agricultural Research and Development
West and Central African Council for
Agricultural Research and Development

1. INTRODUCTION

In the implementation framework of the two initiatives which are the AU-IBAR Genetic project and the FAO (TCP / RAF / 3403) technical cooperation project, a regional workshop on strengthening the capacities on the management of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) in Central and West Africa was held from 28 to 30 August 2014 in N'Djamena, Chad. At the end of the workshop, two distinct S-RFP -AnGRs were established for the two sub-regions (Central Africa and West Africa) instead of the single PFS-R-AnGR-AOC. Following the establishment of the S-RFP-AnGR, the General Assembly elected the host institution for the Secretariat and members of the Steering Committee for the S-RFP–AnGR-OA. This report presents the progress and results of the first meeting of the said Steering Committee, which was held on Saturday, 30th August 2014 in the CEBEVIRHA conference room.

The agenda of the meeting included the following points:

1. The election of Bureau: a Chair and a secretary;
2. Development of the work methodology of the Steering Committee;
3. Identification of priority activities;
4. Developing a work plan for the next 6 months;
5. Definition of a regional project idea.

2. Participants

The meeting was attended by 11 (out of 15) members of the Steering Committee representing the following countries and institutions: Benin, Ghana, Gambia, Niger, Guinea Bissau, AU-IBAR, FAO, CORAF/WECARD, CIRDES, WALIC and University of Ghana. Other members of S-RFP participated as observers. Annex 1 provides details on the participants.

3. Proceedings of the meeting

The meeting was held in a plenary session, in French and English. After a presentation on the terms of reference of the S-RFP, particularly in relation to the Steering Committee, the meeting consisted of discussions of the items on the agenda. The results below were obtained by consensus.

The facilitation of the meeting was done by AU-IBAR and FAO.

4. Outcomes

After the meeting, all items on the agenda were discussed, with the exception of the definition of the idea of the regional project. This item will be developed over the next 6 months (refer to Work Plan).

4.1. Bureau of the Steering Committee

The bureau of the SC was elected unanimously by the members present; It is composed of the following:

- Chair: ECOWAS
- Secretary: CORAF/WECARD

4.2. Work methodology of the Steering Committee

Based on the terms of reference of the S-RFP developed during the Libreville meeting in 2011, the work methodology of the Steering Committee will be based on (i) the meetings of the Steering Committee, (ii) establishment of ad hoc groups and (iii) facilitating communication.

i. Meetings of the Steering Committee

- One physical meeting per year; support for each participant will in principle be provided by the institution;
- At least one virtual meeting per year: e-conference (e-forum DAD-Net West Africa), online meeting (Anymeeting.com for example) or videoconferencing;

ii. Establishment of ad hoc Groups

- Ad 'hoc groups will be set up to carry out specific activities aimed at achieving the objectives of the S-RFP (e.g, the development of a regional project).

iii. Facilitating communication

- A S-RFP portal will be created on the CORAF/WECARD Website to disseminate information and documentation on the activities and results of the S-RFP;
- Other means of communication (Dropbox, mailing list, etc.) will be set up to facilitate communication within the PFS-R.

4.3. Priority activities

1. Update all the absent Coordinators on the decisions made during the meetings of the General Assembly and the Steering Committee;
2. Take inventory of communication technologies (ICT) at the country and institution levels;
3. Develop and implement a project to strengthen individual and institutional capacities of PFS-R actors;
4. Develop an advocacy document to sensitize States on the importance of AnGR;
5. Develop a proposal for sustainable financing mechanisms of the S-RFP PFS-R: MoU, LoA, etc.

4.4. Action plan for the next 6 months

On the basis of the priority activities and prospects of the S-RFP, the action plan below was developed.

Activity/task	Expected Results	Time frame	Responsible
Develop a Concept Note for the development of an advocacy document toward AnGR stakeholders on coherence with the policies and contribution to the national and regional economy	-AnGR are taken into account in national and regional policies and strategies -The financing of S-RFP-AnGR increased	6 months	Secretariat of S-RFP
Analyze gaps and strengthen the capacity of countries for electronic communication	-Communication within the PFS-R improved	4 months	S-RFP & AU-IBAR Secretariat
Develop a concept note to achieve regional synthesis on the inventory of AnGR in OA	-A catalogue of the AnGRs in West Africa developed	6 months	AU-IBAR
Develop a concept note for a regional project on the development and conservation of AnGR	-Development and conservation of AnGRs in OA improved	6 months	CIRDES
Developing a budget proposal for the next 6 months	-Financing of PFS-R activities secured	1 month	Secretariat of the S-RFP
Develop the multi-year work plan & budget taking into account sub-regional priority activities	-Development and conservation of AnGR in AO improved	6 months	Secretariat of the S-RFP

Annex: List of Participants

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 **AFRICAN UNION**
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 **Food and Agriculture Organization**
of the United Nations

**Strengthening capacities in animal genetic resources
management in Central and West Africa**

Regional Workshop • N'Djamena (Chad) • 28-30 August 2014