

2014

**Sub-Regional Focal Point Workshop
for Southern Africa 1 – April 2014
HARARE, ZIMBABWE**



AFRICAN UNION
**INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES**

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**AFRICAN UNION
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES
AU-IBAR**



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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

Sub-Regional Focal Point Workshop for Southern Africa

**Meikles Hotel - Harare, Zimbabwe
1st to 3rd April 2014**

April 2014

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Acronyms

AnGR:	Animal Genetic Resources
ASARECA:	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AU:	African Union
AU-IBAR:	African Union-Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources
CAADP:	Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme
CCARDESA:	Center for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development in Southern Africa
CGRFA:	Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
COMESA:	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
DAD-IS:	Domestic Animal Diversity-Information System
DAD-Net:	Domestic Animal Diversity Network
FAO:	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GDP:	Gross Domestic Product
GPA:	Global Plan of Action
ILRI:	International Livestock Research Institute
ISC:	Interim Steering Committee
ITWG-AnGR:	Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources
MS:	Member States
NAC:	National Advisory Committee
NAP:	National Action Plan
NFP:	National Focal Points
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
NSAP:	National Strategies and Action Plan
REC:	Regional Economic Communities
RUFORUM:	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
SADC:	Southern African Development Community
SoW-AnGR:	State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources
S-RFP:	Sub-Regional Focal Point
SRO:	Sub-Regional Organization
TOR:	Terms of Reference

Acknowledgements

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Introduction and Background

The Development of Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) is a priority for many African countries where livestock production constitutes a very important component of the agricultural economy and contributes up to 30% to agricultural Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This has been recognized in the Global Plan of Action (GPA) for AnGR, which underlines the importance of sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources for the development of livestock production to meet the future challenges.

The African Union – Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organized with the technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) a three-day workshop focusing on strengthening institutional capacity for the management of animal genetic resources in Southern Africa and launching the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Animal Genetic Resources in the region as part of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources. AU-IBAR through the EU-funded project **“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”** aims to establish the S-RFP for Southern Africa and to strengthen capacities of Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for the sustainable use of AnGR. The project contributes to the implementation of AU-IBAR’s strategy, which sets the sustainable use of AnGR as a priority to mainstream livestock in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development program (CAADP).

The Global Plan of Action highlights the important roles of Regional Focal Points (RFP) and regional networks in building collaborative partnerships, coordinating regional efforts in AnGR management, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting technical cooperation, training and research. Regional Focal Points have been established in a number of regions but Africa does not have yet its RFP for the management of AnGR. Nevertheless, progress has been made through the establishment of a Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Western and Central Africa and much recently for Eastern Africa.

Southern Africa had a Sub-Regional Focal Point at the turn of the new millennium which was established to serve as a hub for coordination and cooperation in the management of AnGR in Southern Africa. However, for various reasons, this initiative did not succeed leading to the unfortunate but unavoidable collapse of the Sub-Regional Focal Point. Recently, stakeholders had the opportunity, via an electronic-forum to give their views on lessons learned from these past initiatives and on key requirements for the establishment of an operational and sustainable Sub-Regional Focal Point in Southern Africa. Among the main lessons highlighted were the reliance on one country to lead and the lack of ownership on the part of countries and Regional Economic Communities.

Building on these lessons and strongly motivated by the outcomes of the joint initiative in Eastern Africa, AU-IBAR is committed to support the process with the technical support of FAO, through this regional workshop for Southern Africa.

Objectives of the Workshop

Main Objective:

The main objective of the workshop was to strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States for the management of animal genetic resources and launching the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in Southern Africa

Specific objectives

- To present and discuss the synthesis of the electronic conference on DAD-Net Southern Africa and during other events on ANGR;
- To launch the process for the establishment of a S-RFP for Southern Africa;
- To develop a roadmap and concrete action points/ way forward.

Opening Ceremony

The Regional Workshop for the Establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Animal Genetic Resources (AnGR) in Southern Africa was held from 1st to 3rd April 2014 at Meikles Hotel in Harare, Zimbabwe by AU-IBAR with the technical support of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The official opening ceremony was chaired by Dr. Simplicie Nouala, Chief Animal Production Officer representing the Director of AU-IBAR.

The workshop registered an attendance of twenty three (23) participants in total. This included National coordinators, national focal points or their representatives (from 12 Members states), Sub-Regional Research Organizations (CCARDESA), International Research Institutions (ILRI), International organizations (FAO), Civil Society Organizations (Breeders Association), Private sector (Agribusiness Forum Database Botswana) and the representatives of the media.

Welcome: The Chief Animal Production Officer representing the Director of AU-IBAR

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Nouala reminded participants of the highlights of Global Plan of Action regarding the important roles of Regional Focal Points (RFP) and regional networks in building collaborative partnerships, coordination, exchange of information, and promotion of technical cooperation, training and research in the management of AnGR. He stated that building on the past experiences Southern Africa should re-think the way to set an operational Sub-Regional Focal Point for the sub-region. As a mandated institution of the African Union to promote the utilization of animal resources to achieve food security, improved livelihoods and reduce poverty, AU-IBAR will encourage African Member States to fulfill their obligations to the Global Plan of Action and show the world Africa's commitment to this cause. (**Annex 4**)

Remarks by FAO

Dr. P. Boettcher, representing FAO in the opening pointed out the importance of the workshop as it is part of an on-going cooperation between FAO and AU-IBAR and also by the attendance by NGOs, civil society and Research institutions. With regards to the establishment of the Regional and Sub-Regional Focal points, he stressed first on the importance and insisted that Africa was the only region with formal basis of establishment of Sub-Regional-Focal Points when compared with other regions. This is to the credit of AU-IBAR which took up this role of Regional Focal Point. Dr. Boettcher concluded on the importance of having the S-RFP anchored in regional Institutions (**Annex 5**).

Remarks by the Representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development

Representing the Minister, Mr. Sikosana, the Director for the Division of Livestock Research welcomed the participants to the workshop. He stressed on the importance of livestock and AnGR to livestock keepers. He extended his appreciation to partners, AU-IBAR, FAO and ILRI for their support to AnGR initiatives. Referring to the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa, he called for the Sub-region to have a body that will guide and coordinate AnGR initiatives in the region. Mr. Sikosana also sincerely thanked AU-IBAR and FAO for choosing Harare to host, before declaring the workshop officially open. (*Annex 6*).

Adoption of Workshop Programme and Objectives

Dr. Edward Nengomasha made a presentation introducing the agenda and objectives of the workshop. This was then followed by a short introduction of all participants, their functions in their respective countries. The agenda agreed on for the three (3) days covered three major topics:

- The state of implementation of the Global Plan of Actions: by FAO, AU-IBAR and National Coordination,
- The Process of establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Points with special focus on Southern Africa.
- The Way forward in regards to the S-RFP for Southern Africa.

The agenda was adopted without amendments. The workshop proceedings were a combination of plenary sessions to provide a common discussion platform for all the participants and group sessions for more detailed interactive discussion on different aspects of Animal Genetic Resources in Africa. (*Annex 1*)

Workshop Proceedings

This section will cover the summary of the various presentations made, as well as the plenary sessions which are mainly constituted of group discussions and restitutions in form of outcomes.

Summary of the Presentations

1. Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action

Presentation by Dr. Paul Boettcher from FAO: “*Status of implementation of the Global Plan of Action in Southern Africa*”

Dr. P. Boettcher from FAO presented the Status of implementation of the GPA in Southern Africa. In his introduction, Dr. Boettcher pointed out that the Global Plan of Action is one of the most translated FAO document and further translations in more languages was on-going. The level of implementation of the strategic priorities of the Global Plan of Action as well as the support provided by FAO and partners to countries were presented. This included technical and Policy support, support on the establishment of Regional Focal points, provision of tools and guidelines for the implementation of the GPA, creation of discussion Networks and Information system management. Country Progress Reports, Regional Progress Reports and reports from international organizations were in the process of being finalized. Activities were most advanced in Europe, the region with the longest-established Regional Focal Point. Decision-makers were encouraged to use country-level indicators as a means of identifying strategic priority

areas where action is particularly required. An overview of the Synthesis progress report and Country Reports submitted was presented. Thirty seven (37) Country Reports were received from Africa (ten from Southern Africa) and three to be completed soon. Dr. Boettcher concluded that the Global Plan of Action has impact at national level, but he also recognized the low data quality in DAD-IS. Breed information gathered assists in the monitoring of threats and genetic erosion, the Assessment of impact of exotic breeds on locally adapted breeds and the Establishment of conservation measures. While the collaboration and financing are the main weak points, Southern Africa is rich in AnGR though many of these resources need to be identified and better managed.

Presentation by Dr. Pissang Tchangai from AU-IBAR: *“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources - AU-IBAR current interventions on AnGR”*

Dr. Pissang from AU-IBAR presented the Status of implementation of AU-IBAR activities on AnGR. The presentation highlighted the reasons for AU-IBAR’s involvement in the AnGR activities. The roles played by AU-IBAR derive from its mandate, functions and from the Strategic Plan 2014-2017 and focuses on advocacy, policy, knowledge management aspects and coordination. AU-IBAR facilitates the implementation of the Global Plan of Action which was demonstrated in January 2014 by the assistance provided to Member States in the preparation of Country Reports on AnGR, to contribute to the Second Report on the State of the world’s Animal Genetic Resources (SoW-AnGR). On the establishment of the S-RFP, Dr. Pissang noted the vision of AU-IBAR based on the experience of the Sub-Regional Focal Point in West and Central Africa, the suggestion made strongly advising on the institutional anchorage of the S-RFP in intergovernmental organization mandated by the regional MS. This was in particular reference to the five (5) Sub-Regional Research Organizations in the North, Southern, East, West and Central Africa, NASRO, CCARDESA ASARECA, CORAF, respectively, or other international organizations. As such discussions should be initiated with these Sub-Regional Research Organizations to identify their roles in regional coordination and management of AnGR. In conclusion, Dr. Pissang enumerated the current AU-IBAR projects and initiatives on AnGR, the African bee initiative with focus on African reference laboratories, Aquaculture development and the assistance for Regional initiative on AnGR.

Presentation by Mr. Cleopas Okore, Resource Person on the Thematic: *“Synthesis of the electronic discussion - The status of the activities in AnGR in Southern Africa”*

Mr. Okore from Kenya presented a Synthesis of the electronic discussion on the status of the activities on AnGR in Southern Africa and the Synthesis of the electronic discussion on the Sub Regional priorities for sustainable management of animal genetic resources. The main objectives of the e-forum were to provide an overview of the on-going activities in Southern Africa, the inventory of lessons drawn from past experiences in the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Point and the Identification of sub regional priorities for the management of AnGR. The main issues were reported per Strategic priority actions, and the activities implemented. As a ground setting for the establishment of S-RFP, emphasis should be first put on National coordinators with clear roles including among others, resource mobilization.

Presentation from Dr. Edward Nengomasha from AU-IBAR: *“Some Priorities/Initiatives on Animal Genetic Resources in the Southern Africa Region”*

This presentation was a compilation of some priorities and initiatives on Animal Genetic Resources in the Southern Africa Region that were presented by the National Coordinators during the Regional Inception Workshop held in November 2013, in Gaborone (Botswana).

National priorities and initiatives were recorded and presented in a matrix/table displaying under each country the type of conservation, characterization programs conducted, the kind of breeding programs, the availability of gene bank facilities, the performance in recording systems. Other priority areas covered were on policies.

The priorities mentioned at the time and considered regional (SADC) level included: - Optimal use of AnGR - Information exchange and Early Warning Systems - Capacity development to implement Policies - Design and Implementation of improved conservation and breeding programmes.

General recommendations reported in November 2013 were:

- Setting up of sub-regional gene banks,
- Training of animal breeders,
- Exchange of genetic material,
- Molecular characterization ,
- Collaboration between universities in AnGR for MSc and PhD training programmes,
- Information exchange among the member states in the region.

Presentation by National Coordinators: “Review of activities, projects and progress achieved in AnGR management in the last 10 years”

The workshop continued with regional and country reports on the on-going initiatives/projects, progress realized in AnGR management in the last 10 years, priorities and plans for the future. The main challenges and constraints to animal genetic resources management were also presented. Using a prepared template shared in advance to the participants, nine MS made presentations.

LESOTHO:

After an overview of the livestock sector and its contribution to the GDP (5%), the presenter listed the past initiatives including:

- Conduct of national survey on animal genetic resources using FAO guidelines and indigenous knowledge of farmers. Phenotypic characterization was only done for the Basotho Pony. There is indiscriminate crossbreeding using exotic breeds.
- Establishment by the Government of Lesotho of 2 Merino sheep stud farms for production of quality breeding stock for sale to farmers supported by the establishment of wool Merino ram breeders and Angora goat buck breeders.
- Introduction of artificial insemination

The constraints listed included:

- There are few breeders available and most are in academic institutions,
- No *ex situ* conservation facilities hence importation of frozen semen,
- Old and poor implementation of laws governing livestock farming (Laws of Lerotholi, 1905 and Importation of Livestock Proclamation, 1947).
- High dependency on South Africa

The following priorities were reported:

- Capacity building for management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources (FAnGR);
- Drafting and adoption of the National Strategy for Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources, including an Action Plan;

- Conservation of breeds at risk (establishment of breeding centres, conservation oriented programmes and promotion of community based conservation and management of AnGR);
- Drafting and adoption of the National Strategy for Management of FAnGR, and Action Plan;
- Characterization Studies,

Proposed future strategies are:

- Survey of Animal Genetic Resources,
- Capacity building for management of FAnGR,
- Updating policies and legislation related to management of Animal Genetic Resources
- Conservation of breeds at risk and Monitoring Animal Genetic Resources
- Need to develop and review: - Institutional framework for conservation of AnGR - National policies within the Department of Livestock Services - Legislation Framework for implementing biodiversity of AnGR including Protection of the rights of local communities and breeders.

NAMIBIA

Mrs. Deidre A. Januarie started her presentation, with a map showing the “no livestock farming area” which is a Foot and Mouth Disease prone area. For the 10 years, Namibia focused its work on AnGR on:

- Small stock mainly (sheep, indigenous goats) chicken and pigs particularly in multiplication, stabilization, ecotypes isolation, comparative studies, characterization and DNA analysis;
- Large Stock (Sanga/Nguni cattle) mainly on ecotypes isolation, DNA analysis, development in 2004 of field guide for the identification of the indigenous livestock of Namibia with FAO;
- Building Namibia Stud Breeders Association (NSBA): Registration of breeds with NSBA (using BreedPlan) and/or the affiliation of Breeders to the Association.

Current activities include Conservation, Stud registration at the NSBA, Bull/Ram Scheme, NCA & public auctions, Swakara support Scheme, Rural Poverty Reduction Programme, communal and national herd improvement programs. The following achievements were met:

- New breed developed and Good quality breeding animals
- Indigenous breeds kept at GRN stations – to avoid losing valuable genes
- Emergence of private breeders of many indigenous livestock (Damara sheep, Sanga and Afrikaner cattle);

The challenges faced besides financial were uncontrolled cross-breeding, attitude towards indigenous breeds (preference for large frame types of breeds) and restriction of movement of animals.

Future initiatives should focus on change of mindset of livestock keepers, adaptive farming (with hardy adapted animals), molecular analysis for indigenous breeds, conducive legislative environment (development of appropriate policies), creation of conservancies for indigenous animals similar to Community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), finally acquisition and characterization of chicken and pigs.

MALAWI:

For Malawi there has been no national project on AnGR. After the phasing out in 2002 of the Southern Africa Regional Project on FAnGR, there have been no active follow-up of a regionally coordinated project on AnGR. There have been a localized Genetic Diversity and Population Structures through an academic project. This gives a picture which unfortunately does not reflect the status of country. There is need for a comprehensive nationwide scaling-up.

Currently the government only maintains limited activities on cattle in some centers. Some activities are also carried by some Research stations (Chitala and Mbawa) and some specialized Livestock centers (Dzalanyama and Diamphwi). Among other initiatives can be listed the localized jointly coordinated project on Improving Indigenous Chicken Productivity (by Egerton University, Kenya and Malawi) and the Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of Malawi Zebu cattle. Finally there is growing interest and attempts to develop Livestock Breeding Policy, as well as conducting Annual Livestock Production Estimates (using extension workers assigned to a number of farmers and also using modeling systems).

The challenges reported are:

- Lack of National Policy and Strategies for Management, Utilization & Conservation of AnGR
- Lack of Comprehensive National Phenotypic and Genetic Characterization of Livestock breeds
- Low Human Technical Capacity and Skills in Animal Breeding
- Low Stakeholders Sensitization and Involvement in AnGR
- Dilapidated Livestock Research Infrastructure for AnGR
- Lack of Established National Advisory Committee on AnGR
- Low Government Financial Resources for AnGR activities

Future initiatives will focus on addressing the above listed the challenges as well as

- Developing Livestock Breeding and Conservation Policies on selected breeds
- Conducting outreach capacity development for different target groups at farmer level
- Strengthening networks and institutional cooperation capacity for management of AnGR
- Establishing National Livestock Identification and Recording System to support Research and Management of AnGR

MAURITIUS

As reported by Mr. Toolsee, for the past 10 years the AnGR activities in Mauritius included:

- breed survey/census for selected farm animal species, phenotypic characterization (Creole cattle and local goat) under Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources in the SADC region(1999-2003);
- Setting up of a nucleus of Creole cattle breed;
- Submission of Country Report on State of the World Animal Genetic Resources (2007);
- Compilation of FAnGR Literature

Current initiatives include:

- Appointment of a National Coordinator for Animal Genetic Resources in 2012;
- Setting up of National Livestock Policy Hub and nomination of a Focal Point in February 2013.

Progress achieved so far includes:

- Putting in a place a Livestock Policy Hub with several meetings held with all stakeholders to discuss and propose on each identified theme;
- Facilitation of Animal Resources Information System II (ARIS) training which led to setting a Committee of all stakeholders.

The challenges currently are:

- Restructuring of agricultural sector and allocation of resources for implementing activities;
- Lack of trained technical and scientific staff;
- Technical and financial support ;
- Commitment and participation of all stakeholders ;
- Harmonization of policies.

Priorities and strategic directions for future action are to address the challenges above and:

- Prepare the national strategy and action plans, to ensure strategic and comprehensive approaches to the sustainable use, development and conservation of AnGR for food and agriculture;
- Set up a national breeding policy defining breeding objectives, establishing breeding programmes and encouraging stakeholders' participation in conservation programme especially those involved in ecotourism
- Identify most appropriate methods for conservation of selected breeds;
- Engage in collaborative research and development programme with sharing of facilities and expertise with other regional countries to facilitate knowledge exchange and enhance conservation;
- Conduct characterisation of breeds (both phenotypic and molecular) identified for conservation purposes;
- Promote products derived from indigenous and local species and locally adapted breeds and facilitate market access (e.g milk and meat of Creole breed, local goats, Rodriguan chicken, etc.)

MADAGASCAR

Madagascar has institutional instruments to facilitate the management of AnGR. This includes the National Advisory Committee with an appointed National Coordinator, establishment of a policy framework (milk production, Madagascar zebu). In the past there have also been introductions of exotic species (Holstein, Boer goat, Angora goat, poultry breeds), conservation program (Renitelo cattle) and the support to local production system and traditional practices relating to AnGR.

Current initiatives and achievement in favour of the management of AnGR are:

- The establishment of the national sector policy livestock
- Implementation of cluster development policies
- Monitoring of exotic breeds and characterization of goats
- Inventory of AnGR (though need of updates and complement)
- Phenotypic and molecular characterization of Malagasy zebu
- Establishment of the National Council of genetic improvement

Many challenges and constraints were listed. Those hindering the management of AnGR are:

- Lack of interest of the private sector on locally adapted breeds(low productivity);
- Absence of national action plan, policy, specific programmes and strategies on sustainable use, development and conservation of AnGR races;
- Low capacity in management of genetic resources and lack of infrastructures;
- absence of specialized actors (breeder, parental strains producers, ...);
- Lack of data and information on AnGR system leading to poor monitoring of the trends and the associated risks;
- Lack of financial support to carry out inventory of AnGR, characterization and monitoring of trends.

Initiatives and futures perspectives listed to be considered are:

- Establish the national action plan (NAP) to implement the eight (8) specific priorities identified (mainly drawn from the specific priority areas of the Global plan of action);
- Establish a National Coordination Center;
- Data and information update on the State and trends of the genetic resources of the country;

- Finalize the characterization of the Malagasy Zebu, same as the characterization of all existing breeds;
- Update, strengthen and implement existing national policies relating to the management of AnGR;
- Establish and implement genetic improvement and conservation programs;
- Promotion of local breeds, reconstruction and conservation of breeds endangered.

SWAZILAND

Swaziland had some initiatives in the past, among others – Breed Data collected but not analysed due to inadequate expertise and financial resource limitations - Conservation of AnGR through utilisation - Characterisation and evaluation of indigenous goats - On-station evaluation of indigenous and exotic beef cattle breeds.

The last initiative is still on-going while new actions came on board: - Implementation and roll out of Swaziland Livestock Information and Traceability System (SLITS) – The bull Loan Scheme - On-station conservation of Nguni Cattle breed.

The challenges among others are: - Lack of qualified human resource in relevant AnGR disciplines - No animal breeding policy to guide the conservation and sustainable utilization of AnGR - No national performance recording schemes for AnGR – Poor resources allocations and limited financial assistance to AnGR programmes - Disconnection of AnGR breeding programmes from the on-going Range Improvement Programme.

The future priorities and ways of improvement include: - Characterization and Development of monitoring mechanism for AnGR - Development of appropriate AnGR breeding programmes for the relevant production systems - Development of a National AnGR information system that is compatible with DAD-IS for easy update - Establishment of an open nucleus breeding system for indigenous Nguni cattle and Swazi Goats - Establishment of a National and International Networking Capacity for sharing of information and collaboration.

ZIMBABWE

It was reported that during the past 10 years, Zimbabwe has carried the following initiatives:

- Characterization (phenotypic and production traits) of indigenous animals : cattle, sheep, goats, chickens, donkeys;
- Completion of National livestock survey (2000/1) to show the distribution of AnGR in the smallholder sector and identify the production systems;
- Registration of pure breeds in the “Zimbabwe Herd Book”;
- Status of AnGR which showed the reduction of breed studs from 400 (in 2000) to 65 (in 2013).

Current initiatives include the Government support to AnGR (through the ZIM ASSET program) and the support to conservation and multiplication centers (both public and private).

Future actions are oriented towards – the establishment of semen and embryo collection and storage center – Capacity building of staff at livestock research institutes in artificial insemination, embryo transfer and modern biotechnology with the support of the available infrastructure and land – A Nucleus herd/flocks to be housed at research institutes (R.I) – and the resuscitation of breed societies.

The key achievements include:

- Support to livestock research institutes in infrastructural development (long term);
- Characterization of goats: sampling of flocks for DNA analysis;
- Characterization of indigenous chickens;
- Small East African goat (Mashona goat).

The constraints to the management and promotion of AnGR in Zimbabwe are: - Local breeds threatened by genetic erosion/extinction - Poor utilization and conservation strategies of local breeds - Lack of awareness and knowledge of AnGR - Indiscriminate slaughters of indigenous/exotic breeds after/during the land distribution exercise - Disappearance of breeds/types - Disease outbreaks (foot and mouth) – Inadequacy of human resource to support AnGR - Few breed societies are operational - Little capacity to multiply pedigree animals at public institutions to meet national needs - Climate change (droughts, floods) - Feed availability - Lack of technology to support AnGR (gene bank).

Priorities and future perspectives that may need to be considered for AnGR in Zimbabwe are:

- The establishment of livestock breeding and multiplication centers,
- Establishment of a National Animal Gene bank,
- Strengthen livestock research and extension services (Training technical staff in AnGR strategies/technologies),
- Implement livestock drought mitigation programmes,
- Cooperation in the conservation of AnGR within the region
- Information sharing among countries (expertise, training, regional journal on AnGR),
- Establishment of a Regional Animal gene bank,
- Collaboration between various stakeholders in the management of AnGR (breeders, universities, industry...),
- Promotion of Stud breeding as a business.

ZAMBIA

Zambia in regards to AnGR has implemented actions at national level:

- Establishment of the status of livestock breeds (cattle, goats, sheep, goats and chicken) in their production environment,
- Conduct of phenotypic characterization of major livestock breeds (morphometric distinctiveness)
- Establishment of a functional (infrastructural and organizational levels) national focal point for the management of AnGR
- Implementation of awareness raising programs for indigenous livestock species (National shows and field days)

Zambia has also been involved in regional initiatives such as attending to regional trainings (Animal Breed Survey Data Analysis; ILRI-SLU project on management, conservation and sustainable use of AnGR).

Activities currently carried are:

- *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* conservation program of major indigenous livestock breeds;
- Appropriate animal identification and trace back system under development;
- Establishment of livestock service centers (a one stop shop for all extension services including artificial insemination and embryo transfer activities);

- Collaborative activities with IAEA for characterization and conservation of indigenous breeds (Training in molecular characterization).

Achievements include - timely submission of the report on the SoW-AnGR (2004 and 2014) - On-station *In situ* conservation of Tonga cattle - Phenotypic characterization of Baroste and Tonga cattle breeds.

The Challenges with regards to AnGR management and promotion in Zambia are:

- Loss of genetic resources due to indiscriminate crossbreeding, breed replacement programs and continuous disease outbreaks (Corridor disease, African swine fever, Newcastle etc...);
- Inadequate training at higher level (PhD) in animal breeding and inadequate resources to carry out AnGR management activities;
- Lack of appropriate Livestock Breeding Policy and National Advisory Committee (NAC)

Future priorities mentioned to be focused on are to address some of the above listed constraints and:

- Collect baseline data on AnGR (current data only limited to species level);
- Characterization of major species (cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and chicken)
- Raise awareness on important attributes of indigenous stocks (heat tolerance, disease resistance...);
- Develop appropriate animal recording system among small holder livestock keepers;
- Collaborative activities in transboundary livestock breeding (through creation gene bank).

MOZAMBIQUE

The following initiatives were carried in the past:

- Restocking program after massive loss of livestock due to war (National cattle herd increased about 18.5% ; DNSV 2012);
- Phenotypic characterization concluded for Landim cattle and goat ;
- Selection and crossbreeding studies conducted to identify best genes for production sector;
- Participation in the survey to establish the status of livestock species and breeds and description of their production systems
- Management of the national animal gene bank (semen)

Actions currently in implementation focus on:

- The continuation of phenotypic characterization and initiation of genetic characterization;
- Awareness raising toward decision makers/ donors on the importance of genotype in breeding and of native breeds;
- breeding strategy finalized – awaiting for approval by parliament
- Establishment of national AnGR management board divided in species
- Establishment of performance testing centre for selection of breeding stock;
- Regional goat sampling for the characterization of goat breeds in Africa;
- *In-situ* and *Ex-situ* conservation programs for breeds under risk (Landim cattle),
- Continuous improved management of the animal genetic bank (feasible sourcing of liquid nitrogen).
- Feasible animal identification and record taking under development;

Constraints and Challenges include:

- Low awareness on the need to conserve and use native breeds sustainably,
- No follow up studies (selection and crossbreeding) leading to indiscriminate breeding;

- Different levels of crossbred animals (except some commercial/private farms) leading to reduction in productivity,
- Progressive replacement of local breeds by exotic (low productivity of local breeds);
- Pressure of disease outbreaks (African swine fever),
- Difficulties in provision of liquid nitrogen;
- Lack of infrastructure, funding and other facilities for better management of AnGR;
- The current livestock development strategy does not take into account AnGR management.
- Shortage of animal breeders and/or AnGR management experts within the country
- No breeders associations.

Futures priorities for the management of AnGR in Mozambique will be to:

- Increase awareness on AnGR management and on the importance of the native breeds, including a wide dissemination of the GPA;
- Improve the coordination between stakeholders;
- Improve infrastructure including the animal identification and record taking for AnGR management;
- Facilitate training of animal breeders (so far 2 exist for the country) and on AnGR management;
- Have cattle breeding strategy approved and design for other species;
- Restore purity of native breeds, multiply and conserve before they are extinct;
- Find reliable source of liquid nitrogen for the gene bank;
- Emphasize the control of African swine fever to support pig industry.

2. Process of establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa

This session comprised presentations and introductions for group work in plenaries.

Presentation by Mr. Cleopas, Resource Person on the Thematic: “*Synthesis of the electronic discussion - Sub Regional priorities for sustainable management of animal genetic resources programs*”

The presenter covered the topics by Specific Priority Actions as described in the Global Plan of Action. At each level the key issues were pointed out before enlightening on the key priorities pertaining to the region.

The Specific Priority Action 4 focused more on the key institutions on AnGR, ways of enhancing the role of NFP and the urgent policies to be implemented.

The key issues listed ranged from capacity building, exchange between neighboring countries on characterization of transboundary breeds, identification and utilization of AnGR.

The regional priorities included a better understanding and joint intervention (inventory, characterization and documentation), establishment and strengthening of institutional frameworks, creation of a readily accessible database similar to DAD-IS of FAO, collaborative research, scientific conferences and exchange visits, development of policies, laws and strategies on conservation to minimize erosion.

The key institutions involved in the management of AnGR are mainly, Government institutions (Ministries in charge of AnGR and their agencies), Research Institutes and Universities, Private national and multinational companies, NGO and the community (livestock keepers and users).

Suggested actions to enhance the role of National Focal point are related to staffing, mobilization of funding, development of strategic plan on priorities and establishment /strengthening of National Advisory Committees for AnGR.

Some policies were considered as urgent especially those for creating institutions that are mandated to coordinate and fund conservation. Among them were listed: - Regional Livestock Policies - National Livestock Policies – and the Animal breeding or improvement policies and those addressing certain species or commodities (Poultry policy, Camel Development Policy, Dairy Policy etc...)

Presentation by Dr. Paul Boettcher from FAO: “Roles and responsibilities of National, Regional and Global Focal Points for the Management of AnGR”

The key points of this second presentation included a schematic presentation of the various levels of focal points at Global (FAO), Regional (Continental) and National (Countries). He clarified that National Focal Points are institutions nominated by the government to oversee management of national AnGR. Those initiate, lead, facilitate and coordinate country activities related to the implementation of National Strategies and Action Plans for AnGR. The National Focal Points nominates a National Coordinator for management of AnGR who serves as the main official contact point for the Global Focal Point (FAO), monitor data on breeds and oversee their insertion in DAD-IS, evaluate, coordinate and monitor national AnGR projects, initiate AnGR research, promote networking nationally and internationally, make information available to the public through publications and presentations and follow international activities related to AnGR. The Regional Focal Points ensure active national/regional networking, provide technical assistance in project design, support communication & awareness raising, strengthen the position & capacity of NFPs and mobilize of financial resources. On the road map for the establishment of the SR-FP, the 14 steps described in the institutional guidelines were presented as well as the funding options to operationalize the SRFP.

Presentation by Professor Timothy Simalenga from CCARDESA: “Development of S-RFP for Southern Africa”

Professor Timothy Simalenga the Executive Director of CCARDESA presented on the Lessons learnt from the defunct S-RFP for AnGR for Southern Africa. The first part of the presentation introduced CCARDESA, its Vision and mandate of three key points:

- Establishment of enabling conditions for regional collaboration and cooperation in the technology generation, dissemination and adoption (including capacity development)
- Making sure that there is demand-driven generation of technologies, provide evidence based research for policy
- Develop and Strengthen strategic partnership.

Prof Simalenga later expanded on how CCARDESA can be positioned as a potential S-RFP for Southern Africa. The disappearance of the S-RFP for Southern Africa derived from the lack of ownership by the MS, reliance on individuals and lack of inclusion of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), namely the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Established as a Sub-Regional Organization (SRO) of the SADC in February 2010 by the SADC Council of Ministers, CCARDESA was formally launched in July 2011 with the Vision of “A prosperous, food secure Southern Africa region with vibrant rural livelihoods” and a Mission “To promote innovative research,

technology generation and adoption for sustainable agricultural development through effective partnership and capacity building”.

CCARDESA aims at:

- Coordinating implementation of regional agricultural R&D programmes;
- Facilitating collaboration among NARS, Universities and CG centres;
- Promoting public - private partnerships in regional agricultural R&D; and
- Improving agricultural technology generation, dissemination and adoption in the region through collective efforts, training and capacity building.

There are 4 thematic areas - Farmer Empowerment & Market Access - Research and Technology generation and farmer demand driven advisory services - Knowledge Management, Information and Communication - Institutional Development and Capacity Building.

In his presentation, Prof. Simalenga called for the involvement of stakeholders with clear activities including in the identification of national priorities, the establishment of National Focal Point and NC and in the National Advisory Committee for AnGRs.

Among other achievements and with regard to the region, it was recorded the inclusion of AnGR in the SADC Livestock Technical Committee’s sub-committee: APRM-AnGRs.

For CCARDESA as a potential candidate and for a sustainable S-FRP the options to considered should build on an “Innovative approach” which also builds on” Transforming Agriculture as Business” (- Sustainable production systems – Realignment on how we work together – and Link agriculture between professionalism and business)

Presentation by Ms. Thato Supang from Agribusiness Forum Database Botswana: “Information solution”

AgriBusiness Forum Database Botswana is an organization that offers solutions to agribusiness industry challenges. It strives towards the development of the agriculture sector with the special priority of increasing relevant youth participation.

Its Mission is *“to explore, adapt, capitalize and share innovative technologies that will develop and grow the agribusiness industry”* with the Vision of *“Commitment to be a hub of distinction in the continental agribusiness industry”*.

This presentation was in sync with the one from CCARDESA in relation to the involvement of the youth. As a young institution and considering its intervention in the agriculture sector, four main areas were pointed to be possible areas of involvement of youth and particularly for AgriBusiness Forum Database Botswana (Database, Information Management System, Collaboration and Who is Where, Doing What, With What?). AgriBusiness Forum Database Botswana positions itself to become an independent, private organization that holds a database with all the variables in AnGR.

In conclusion, AgriBusiness Botswana as a Commercialised Information Collection, Database Management organ, could contribute in addressing national, regional and continental priorities as pointed during various presentations by the National coordinators (Common Policies, Information, Collaboration and Conservation.

Plenary Sessions and Outcomes of the Workshop

The main outcomes of the workshop were derived from group work sessions followed by plenary discussions, synthesis by the Secretariat of the workshop and final validation.

Two introductory presentations were also made by FAO to ease group discussions for better outcomes.

- The Structure and Institutional Arrangements for Establishment of a SRFP;
- Road Map for Establishment of a (Sub) Regional Focal Point.

Always in two groups, three sessions were organized to elaborate on the following topics:

- Session 1: (i) What do you consider as regional priorities of AnGR? (ii) What are the priority action plans for the region?
- Session 2: The proposed structure and institutional arrangements for the S-RFP for Southern Africa (i) what are the key elements of a sub-Regional Focal Point? (ii) What is the desired membership of the Interim Steering Committee?
- Session 3: Develop the Road map for the Establishment of the S-RFP for Southern Africa.

Regional Priorities for the S-RFP

The outcomes from the groups' work were presented in the plenary. It was then requested to the secretariat of the workshop, to synthesize the outcomes of the two groups into one document.

Four main priority areas came out:

- a. ***A common policy for the region on the management of AnGR (Policy environment):*** this will include:
 - Conducting a SWOT analysis of existing national and regional policies
 - Develop deliberate policies to promote conservation and utilization (of the locally adapted breeds)
- b. ***Set up comprehensive database/information system & Knowledge management (for the region).*** Detailed actions will comprise of :
 - Inventory of existing resources / information systems so as to evaluate the gaps/ needs in the existing resources / information systems;
 - Development of feasible, affordable and harmonized tools for identification and recording;
 - Identification and inventories of prioritized breeds at risk and those of economic importance,
 - Characterization of the inventoried breeds;
 - Documentation on the existing indigenous knowledge (Prioritize the use of indigenous knowledge for conservation and utilization of AnGR) and also share the existing indigenous knowledge (with IPR in mind and including Indigenous knowledge in normal teaching/education programmes).
- c. ***Collaboration in research and development (Infrastructure and expertise)/ Capacity strengthening.*** Under this priority should be considered:
 - A Gap analysis of research issues
 - Organized capacity building events (study/ familiarization tours and exchange visits) on best practices for the conservation, utilization management of AnGR
 - Training and support on development of national strategies on the management of AnGR and action plans
 - Train more animal breeders/ livestock extensions and promote establishment of breeders association for conservation and utilization of AnGR

- Establish or strengthen National Focal points for management of AnGR and where needed resuscitate national advisory committees on AnGR
- d. **Locally adapted breed conservation/ Support Conservation Activities.** Under this priority action is foreseen:
 - An Inventory of existing trans-boundary breeds including characterization and identification of prioritized breeds at risk and those of economic importance
 - Develop a plan for the management of the most important breeds
 - Establish Sub regional Gene bank and/or strengthen laboratories supporting biotechnologies for AnGR.

Structure of the S-RFP for Southern Africa

The participants during a plenary session agreed on the structure of the S-RFP for Southern Africa. The structure agreed upon will comprise a:

- Secretariat,
- Sub-regional Coordination,
- Steering committee and
- Specific Task Forces.

Interim Steering Committee

From the plenary discussions, the participants stated on the Membership of the Steering Committee and concluded to 13 members composed of 4 National Coordinators, a representative of Breeders Associations in the region, a representative of SADC, a representative of COMESA, a representative of CCARDESA, a representative of NGOs/CSOs and 4 technical institutions (FAO, AU-IBAR, ILRI and RUFORUM).

Prior to the establishment of the Steering Committee, it was agreed to have an Interim Steering Committee (ISC), which was elected *in situ*. The following countries and institutions will compose the ISC: Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, Malawi, CCARDESA, FAO, ILRI, AU-IBAR and one Breeders' Association. The ISC will be chaired by Zambia with Namibia as Deputy Chair and CCARDESA as Secretary.

Road Map for the S-RFP

The Road map for the establishment of the S-RFP was developed following the steps in the FAO guidelines, with formal establishment foreseen by August - September 2014.

Step No.	Steps Description	Target /content	Time frame	Responsible
1	Confirm mutual/collective need for a S-RFP	Member States, NCs, NFPs, RECs, SROs, NGOs	At the present workshop	All participants
2	Establish an Interim Steering Committee	Member States, NCs, NFPs, RECs, SROs, NGOs	At the present workshop	All participants
3	Build awareness of the benefits of the S-RFP	Policy makers, Focal points (FP), stakeholders in AnGR management	Immediately; Report of workshop as opportunity to bring stakeholders	NCs and FPs guided by the Interim Steering Committee (ISC). AU-IBAR to send meeting report and letter to stakeholders on establishment of ISC

4	Preparation of Business Plan	Vision, activity plan, time and budget	3 months (Mid June)	ISC. FAO to provide guidelines and other information for preparation of business plan.
5	Establish Terms of Reference for the Secretariat of the S-RFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background, criteria, roles and responsibilities • TORs for the S-Regional Coordinator 	2 month (end May)	ISC. FAO to provide example of TOR
6	Agree on the overall operational arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and functions of the permanent Steering Committee • Purpose and objectives of sub-regional meetings • Other means to engage NCs 	2 month (end May)	ISC. FAO to provide the templates
7	Convene a meeting for ISC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Report and validation of activities 	Mid June	ISC. AU-IBAR to provide the logistic arrangements
8	Agree on the host institution and Secretariat for the S-RFP	Letter of Agreement from host institution	TBD	ISC and host
9	Develop or strengthen links with regional organizations	Workshops, meetings, MOU, joint projects	TBD	SC and ROs
10	Convene a regional workshop to discuss establishment of the S-RFP	Regional workshop	Aug/Sept 2014	ISC. AU-IBAR to provide the logistic arrangements
11	Once there is agreement to establish the S-RFP, elect a permanent Steering Committee to guide its establishment and appointment of a Sub-Regional Coordinator	Expected result of regional workshop	Same time	ISC. AU-IBAR to provide the logistic arrangements

The Workshop Communique

The workshop produced a Communique, read and approved by the participants during the closing ceremony. The Communique outlines the proceedings of the workshop, the key topics and sessions covered the outcomes, the achievements and the recommendations. (**Annex 2**).

Recommendations and way forward

Two main recommendations were made as immediate actions to be taken:

- Four (4) members of the ISC will attend the CCARDESA Annual General Meeting in May 2014. This will serve as an opportunity for the CCARDESA-appointed acting Sub-Regional coordinator to meet with the ISC members and discuss the road map and way forward.
- AU-IBAR will draft a Letter of Agreement with CCARDESA on the modalities of hosting the S-RFP secretariat.

Appendices

Annex 1: Agenda of workshop

Strengthening Regional Capacities for the Sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources in Southern Africa

Agenda

DAY ONE		
Session 1: Opening		
08.30	Registration Opening ceremony Workshop objectives and Adoption of agenda Presentation of participants	AU-IBAR Min. Agri AU-IBAR All
09.30	Coffee break and group photo	
Session 2: Review of AnGR Activities & Priorities in Southern Africa of the last 10 years		
08.30	Status of implementation of the GPA in Southern Africa	FAO
10.30	Status of implementation of AU-IBAR activities on AnGR	AU-IBAR
10.50	Synthesis of the electronic discussion on the status of the activities in AnGR in Southern Africa	C. Okore
11.10	Regional priorities identified during the meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in November 2013	AU-IBAR
11.30	Country Reports	NCs
13.00	Lunch break	
14.00	Country Reports (continued)	NCs
15:00	Synthesis of the electronic discussion on the Sub Regional priorities for sustainable management of animal genetic resources	C. Okore
15.20	Group Discussions	All
16:00	Coffee break	
16:30	Group Discussions (continued)	All
DAY TWO		
8:30	Group Discussions (continued)	
9:30	Report back from Group Discussions	Plenary
10:00	Coffee break	
Session 3: Strengthening national focal points and regional management of AnGR : Institutional aspects		
10:30	Roles and responsibilities of National, Regional and Global Focal Points for the Management of AnGR	FAO
11.30	Lessons learnt from the now defunct S-RFP for Southern Africa	CCARDESA
12.00	What are the proposed structure and institutional arrangements for the S-RFP Southern Africa?	Group discussion
13.00	Lunch break	
14.00	Report back from Group Discussions	Plenary
14:30	The roadmap for the establishment of the S-RFP	FAO
15.00	Development of the roadmap for the establishment of the S-RFP	Group discussion

16:00	Coffee break	
16.15	Report back from Group Discussions	Plenary
17.00	Closure for the day	
DAY THREE		
Session 4: Regional management of AnGR : Establishing Sub-Regional Focal Point		
08.30	The establishment of the S-RFP and Election of an Interim Steering Committee	Plenary
10.00	Coffee break	
10:30	What are the priority actions on AnGR for the S-RFP?	Group discussion
11.30	Report back from group discussions	Plenary
12.00	Wrap Up	Plenary
12:30	Workshop evaluation & Closure	AU-IBAR
13:00	Lunch & Departure	

Annex 2: Communiqué

INTRODUCTION

1. The African Union - Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) organized from 1st - 3rd April 2014 a workshop, focusing on strengthening institutional capacity for the management of animal genetic resources in Southern Africa.
2. The workshop was organized in the framework of the implementation of the Project *“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”*
3. The workshop aimed at launching the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources in Southern Africa as part of the implementation of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources.
4. The meeting was attended by 11 countries from Southern Africa region, Sub-Regional Research Organizations (CCARDESA), International Research Institutions (ILRI), FAO and Civil Society Organizations.
5. The opening ceremony was chaired by Dr Simplicie Nouala, Chief Animal Production Officer representing the Director of AU-IBAR. In his welcome remarks Dr Nouala mentioned that the Global Plan of Action clearly highlights the important roles of Regional Focal Points (RFP) and regional networks in building collaborative partnerships, coordinating regional efforts, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting technical cooperation, training and research in the management of AnGR. Recalling the past experiences of Southern, West and Central Africa, and much recently of Eastern Africa, Dr Nouala suggested to re-think the way to set an operational Sub-Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa. AU-IBAR as the continental institution of the African Union mandated to promote the utilization of animal resources to achieve food security, improved livelihoods and reduce poverty will do whatever is necessary to encourage African Member States to fulfill their obligations to the Global Plan of Action and show the world Africa’s commitment to this cause.
6. Mr. Sikosana, Director Division of Livestock Research of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development, welcomed the participants to the workshop. He stressed on the importance of livestock and AnGR to livestock keepers and the World as a whole. He extended his appreciation to partners, such as AU-IBAR, FAO and ILRI who support AnGR initiatives. Referring to the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa, he insisted on the need for the region to have a body that will guide and coordinate AnGR initiatives in the region. Mr Sikosana, before declaring the workshop open, thanked sincerely AU-IBAR and FAO for choosing Harare to be the host City for the workshop.
7. Dr. P. Boettcher, from FAO Rome, welcomed participants to Harare, on behalf of the Country Representative for FAO in Zimbabwe. He mentioned that the workshop is part of ongoing cooperation between FAO and AU-IBAR. The attendance by NGOs, civil society and Research institutions show the importance of the workshop. He also recalled the importance of AnGR to Agriculture and their contribution to income generation and livelihoods. With regards to the establishment of the Regional and Sub-Regional Focal points, he stressed first on the importance and insisted that Africa was the only region with formal basis of establishment of Sub-Regional-Focal Points compare with other regions, thanks to AU-IBAR who took up this role of Regional Focal Point. Dr. Boettcher concluded on the importance of having the S-RFP anchored in regional Institutions.

8. The following presentations were made in plenary:
 - a) Status of implementation of the GPA in Africa by FAO;
 - b) Status of implementation of AU-IBAR activities on AnGR in Africa by AU-IBAR,
 - c) Synthesis of the electronic discussion on the status of the activities in AnGR in Southern Africa, by Mr. C. Okore, National Coordinator for Kenya;
 - d) Regional priorities identified during the meeting in Gaborone, Botswana in November 2013, by AU-IBAR;
 - e) Review of Country activities, projects and progress realized in AnGR management in the last 10 years, by the National Coordinators representing the Member States, using a template shared prior to the workshop;
 - f) Roles and responsibilities of National, Regional and Global Focal Points for the Management of AnGR by FAO;
 - g) Synthesis of the electronic discussion on the Sub Regional priorities for sustainable management of animal genetic resources by Mr. C. Okore;
 - h) Lessons learnt from the now defunct S-RFP for Southern Africa, by CCARDESA;
 - i) "Information Solution" by Thato Supang from Agribusiness Forum Database Botswana.

9. The group discussions were organized around the following issues:
 - a) Sub Regional priorities for sustainable management of animal genetic resources and the action plan to handle them,
 - b) Structure and institutional arrangements for the S-RFP for Southern Africa,
 - c) Membership of the Steering Committee;
 - d) Road Map for establishment of a Sub-Regional Focal Point,
 - e) Election of an Interim Steering Committee that will supervise the implementation of the S-RFP,
 - f) The priorities for the S-RFP

OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP:

1. **Regional priorities for AnGR in Southern Africa:** The participants agreed on the following regional priorities for the management of AnGR in Southern Africa:
 - Establish Regional Policy and institutional frameworks for the management of AnGR in Southern Africa;
 - Establish a database/Information system for the management of AnGR;
 - Build institutional and HR capacity for the management of AnGR;
 - Support conservation initiatives;
 - Support AnGR research initiatives.

2. **Structure and institutional arrangement for the S-RFP:** The participants agreed for the SRFP for Southern Africa a structure comprised of a Secretariat, a Sub-regional Coordination, a Steering committee and Specific Task Forces.

3. CCADERSA as a host institution also mentioned the commitment to provide an interim sub-regional coordinator and an office space to start;

4. **The Membership of the Steering Committee** concluded to 13 members composed of 4 National Coordinators, a representative of Breeders Associations in the region, a representative of SADC, a representative of COMESA, a representative of CCARDESA, a representative of NGOs/CSOs and 4 technical institutions (FAO, AU-IBAR, ILRI and RUFORUM).

5. An Interim Steering Committee (ISC) was elected. The following countries and institutions will compose the ISC: Zambia, Namibia, Mozambique, Malawi, CCARDESA, FAO, ILRI, AU-IBAR and one Breeders' Association. The ISC will be chaired by Zambia with Namibia as Deputy Chair and CCARDESA as Secretary.
6. The Road map for the establishment of the S-RFP was developed following the steps in the FAO guidelines, with formal establishment foreseen by August - September 2014.
7. From the Regional priorities, the participants prioritised the activities in short term, medium term and the long term to be considered by the S-RFP.
8. Recommendations
 - a. It was recommended that 4 members of the ISC attend the CCARDESA AGM in May 2014. The CCARDESA-appointed acting Sub-Regional coordinator will meet with the ISC members and discuss the road map and way forward.
 - b. AU-IBAR will draft a Letter of Agreement with CCARDESA on the modalities of hosting the S-RFP secretariat.

Harare, 3rd April 2014

The Participants

Annex 3: List of participants

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Annex 4: Opening remarks by AU-IBAR

Speech by the AU-IBAR Director at the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Southern Africa Workshop under the project “Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”

National Coordinators

National Focal Points Representatives

AU-IBAR staff

Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Commissioner of the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you to this important Workshop.

This workshop comes at a very opportune time for AU-IBAR which has just embarked on a new project ***“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”***, a project which seeks to strengthen the capacity of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalizing national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments.

The Global Plan of Action clearly highlights the important roles of Regional Focal Points (RFP) and regional networks in building collaborative partnerships, coordinating regional efforts, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting technical cooperation, training and research in the management of AnGR. These have been established in a number of regions in the world. In Eastern Africa, there have been efforts in the past to establish Sub-Regional Focal Point but these initiatives had not been successful. Southern Africa had a Sub-Regional Focal Point at the turn of the new millennium which was established to serve as a hub for coordination and cooperation in the management of AnGR in Southern Africa. However, for various reasons, this initiative did not succeed leading to the unfortunate but unavoidable collapse of the Focal Point.

However, the ushering in of the Global Plan of Action in 2007 has provided fresh impetus for the resuscitation of these very important regional institutions in the management of AnGR. Africa has since the Global Plan of Action made some progress with the establishment of a Sub-Regional Focal Point (S-RFP) for Western and Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon in 2011. This was a commendable first step towards the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Points on the African continent. The Genetics Project ***“Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of African Animal Genetic Resources”***, and the FAO Technical Cooperation Project ***“Assistance for Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa”*** with AU-IBAR, both aim to support the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Points in the various regions of Africa to strengthen capacities of Member States (MS) and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) for the sustainable utilization and conservation of AnGR.

Ladies and gentlemen, in early March this year, the process of the establishment of Sub-Regional Focal Points in Africa was initiated in East Africa as a clear testament of Africa's commitment to the improved coordination and cooperation in the sphere of AnGR management. The workshop deliberated on and highlighted the key regional priorities in the improved management of AnGR. The workshop unanimously agreed on these regional priorities and culminated in the establishment of an Interim Steering Committee composed of key stakeholders and mandated with spearheading the process of the establishment of a substantive Steering Committee of the Sub-regional Focal Point for East Africa. This was a major achievement given the numerous attempts which had been experienced.

Ladies and gentlemen, for the Southern African region, this is the same task before us today as we start on this journey to ensure that Africa is not left behind in this global thrust to achieve sustainable utilization and conservation of these very important genetic resources. Africa needs to banish the unwanted tag of always lagging behind other continents in terms of its programmes on animal genetic resources as well as its commitments to the global initiatives on these resources.

AU-IBAR as the continental institution of the African Union mandated to promote the utilization of animal resources to achieve food security, improved livelihoods and reduce poverty will do whatever is necessary to encourage African Member States to fulfill their obligations to the Global Plan of Action and show the world Africa's commitment to this cause.

The overall objective of this Workshop is therefore, to strengthen the institutional capacity of Member States and RECs for the management of animal genetic resources and to launch the process of establishing a Sub-Regional Focal Point for AnGR in Eastern Africa

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In conclusion therefore, let me take this opportunity to once again thank all the Member States and RECs for their continued support to AU-IBAR and the animal resources sector in Africa, and reiterate AU-IBAR's commitment to enhanced collaboration with Member States and development partners in the implementation of activities and recommendations on animal genetic resources. AU-IBAR wishes to thank you the National Coordinators and Focal Points for your sacrifices in accepting our invitation, at very short notice, to come to Zimbabwe commit yourself to the cause before you today. We are grateful and really appreciate your commitment and consideration.

Let me profoundly thank the Government of Zimbabwe for allowing us to hold this workshop in this beautiful country.

I wish you all an inspiring, productive and enjoyable Workshop.

Thank you very much for your attention

Annex 5: Remarks by FAO

Regional Workshop on “*Strengthening Regional Capacities for the Sustainable Use of Animal Genetic Resources in Southern Africa*”

Harare, Zimbabwe 1 April 2014

Statement by FAO

**Distinguished Delegates,
Esteemed Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Harare for the Regional Workshop on “*Strengthening Regional Capacities for the Sustainable use of Animal Genetic Resources in Southern Africa*”.

This workshop is part of an ongoing series of activities supporting cooperation between African countries and strengthening their capacities to sustainably manage animal genetic resources. Development of animal genetic resources is an important priority for African countries, where livestock production constitutes a very significant component of the agricultural economy.

Livestock provide increased economic stability for farmers and households, acting as a cash buffer and a capital reserve. Indigenous animal genetic resources are often more resistant to local diseases, more heat tolerant and better able to efficiently utilize poor-quality feed.

This is recognized in the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources, which emphasizes the importance of sustainable use of animal genetic resources in the improvement of livestock production and in meeting future challenges. It is also recognized in the strategy of the African Union – Inter African Bureau of Animal resources (AU-IBAR), which sets the sustainable use of animal genetic resources as a priority to mainstream livestock in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development program.

This workshop – organized and sponsored by AU-IBAR, and with technical assistance from FAO – will help to improve coordination among initiatives, programmes and projects at country, sub-regional and regional levels. It is worth noting the presence of regional and professional livestock breeders’ organizations, which I am sure will greatly, enrich the discussions.

The workshop will strengthen capacity to sustainably manage animal genetic resources in Southern Africa. The subsequent activities will support the implementation of an AU-IBAR operated, and EU-funded project that aims at strengthening the capacity of African countries to conserve and sustainably use African animal genetic resources.

Dear colleagues, the Global Plan of Action highlights the important roles of *Regional Focal Points* and *regional networks* in building collaborative partnerships, coordinating regional efforts in animal genetic resources management, facilitating the exchange of information and promoting technical cooperation, training and research.

FAO is supporting this process through the implementation of a Technical Cooperation Programme (*TCP/RAF/3403 "Assistance for Regional Initiative on Animal Genetic Resources in Africa"*).

Regional Focal Points have been established in a number of regions, but so far not in Africa. Nevertheless, progress has been made – with the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for Western and Central Africa.

In Southern Africa, some past efforts have been made to establish a sub-regional focal point, but these have not, as yet, been successful. Recently, stakeholders had the opportunity – via an electronic-forum – to give their views on lessons learned from these past initiatives and on key requirements for the establishment of an operational and sustainable sub-regional focal point in Southern Africa.

Among the main lessons highlighted was a lack of ownership on the part of countries and regional economic communities. This and other lessons will be discussed during this workshop.

Dear colleagues, I am sure that the involvement of the AU-IBAR in this process will greatly contribute to the success of efforts to establish a sub-regional focal point.

Collaboration will be the key to the success of this workshop. I count on you to share your wealth of ideas, experiences and feedback. This is a unique opportunity to develop synergies and inter-institutional joint actions on animal genetic resources in Africa.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all not only a successful meeting, but also a pleasant stay in Zimbabwe.

Annex 6: Remarks by Representative of Zimbabwe

Director and staff: Inter African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR)

Director: Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa

Representatives from FAO and ILRI

Principal Directors: DRSS, Vet and LPD

Directors in the MAMID

NGOS and Stakeholders

Animal Breeders Organizations representatives and Farmers

National Coordinators (ANGR) from the SADC region

Government Officials

National AU – BAR Project Focal Points for Southern Africa

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this Regional Workshop on the Establishment of Sub– Regional Focal Point for Animal Genetic Resources in Southern Africa being held in Harare.

I am informed that the workshop is being held to strengthen the capacity of National Coordinators, researchers and professionals in the management of Animal Generic Resources. Animal genetic resources play a pivotal role in our Agricultural activities in the Region. Challenges to Agriculture are, the disappearance and neglect of our traditional animal breeds which are an asset to the smallholder sector and the region as a whole.

International Organizations such as ILRI and FAO have supported and are still to support some of the regional initiatives on conservation and utilization of animal genetic resources. I am aware that each country has come up with strategic plans to protect and increase the utilization of their ANGR. Some of the past, present and future initiatives will be dealt with during the workshop.

All said and done, the region needs a body to guide, and supervise our initiatives in the conservation and utilization of our ANGR.

I would like to thank AU- IBAR and FAO for their support to this important workshop in the region.

I thank you for choosing Harare, Zimbabwe as your destination this week for this workshop.

Enjoy your stay.

I now declare the workshop opened.

Wishing you all the best in your deliberations during the week

THANK YOU