

2014

**Project Implementing Partners Meeting
Genetic Project**



African Union, Interafrican Bureau
for Animal Resources



Project Implementing Partners Meeting

7th March 2014

Kabira Country Club - Kampala, Uganda

African Union

Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources

Executive Summary

On 18th July 2013, the implementation of the Project "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources" has started. The European Commission agreed that an inception period of six months would be allocated in which arrangements for the project implementation would be done. The Inception phase will cumulate in the organization of the Project first Steering Committee (PSC).

The Inception period focused on establishing the project team, organize the regional inception and facilitation workshops carried out with contribution of the project team, relevant government counterparts, and representatives from both Implementing Agencies. The period focused also on consultations with all the stakeholders that will participate in the Project including Governments, RECs, implementing partners and beneficiaries.

During all the meetings a brief presentation of the project including the aim, results and the strategy was made and several issues were discussed including avoiding overlapping of the activities and building synergies, holding a partners workshop and identification of areas/activities for the involvement of partners.

During the different consultations, opportunities were given to visit some conservation facilities (Ex situ and In situ). In CIRDES the laboratories and facilities were assessed while in ITC/WALIC infrastructures and the genetic improvement program at the station in KENEBA were assessed.

Based on the results of the discussions and visits to partners and taking into account all the conclusions, a matrix was developed and proposed to the partners during a meeting organized in Uganda on 7th March 2014, back to back with the workshop aiming at the establishment of the Sub-Regional Focal Point for East Africa and the partners round table meeting.

The main objective of the partners meeting was to discuss and agree on the roles and responsibilities of each implementing partner and potential partners to contribute towards the achievement of the goals of the Genetics Project. The specific objectives were to share and agree on the expected contribution of each partner to the Project and to expose partners to the AU-IBAR contracts requirements (AU financial and procurement rules and regulations).

Participants to the meeting were from FAO, ILRI, RUFORUM, ASARECA, CORAF/ WECARD, CIRDES, ITC/WALIC and AU-IBAR.

Introduction

On 18th July 2013, the implementation of the Project "Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources" has started. The project aims to strengthen the capacity of countries and Regional Economic Communities to sustainably use and conserve African animal genetic resources through institutionalising national and regional policy, legal and technical instruments. The project will strengthen the inherent capacities of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the end-users at community level to improve the utilization of AnGR and rural livelihoods through:

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

The European Commission agreed that an inception period of six months would be allocated in which arrangements for the project implementation would be done. The Inception phase will cumulate in the organization of the Project first Steering Committee (PSC). Activities included in the Inception period focused on establishing the project team, organizing the regional inception and facilitation workshops carried out with contribution of the project team, relevant government counterparts, and representatives from Executing Agencies. AU-IBAR is a multilateral organizational arrangement that embodies partnerships at different levels and dimensions. The period also focused on consultations with all the stakeholders that will participate in the Project including Governments, RECs, Executing Agencies and beneficiaries.

There is first and foremost a fundamental partnership with the Governments that participate in the Genetic Project. Governments of the 54 Member States and RECs were sent letters informing them on the launching of the project and were at the same time requested to appoint a project national focal persons. Governments are responsible for identifying national priorities, utilizing a multi-stakeholder process which includes NGOs and civil society, for ensuring that the goals of the project conform to and are consistent with the national priorities and country strategies.

There exist also vital partnerships with the Executing Agencies and other organizations identified for participating in the project activities. All these

partnerships have evolved and have been strengthened and are fully expected to continue to evolve with a view to responding effectively and fully to the objectives of the genetic project among other AU-IBAR projects.

Meetings were held on 9 June, 2013 with Executing Agencies such as ILRI, on 10 November 2013 with CIRDES, from 7 to 10 December 2013 with WALIC on 17 January, 2014 again with ILRI on 30 January, 2014 with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and on 28 March 2014 with the Beca-ILRI Hub. During all the meetings a brief presentation of the project including the aim, results and the strategy was made and several issues were discussed including avoiding overlapping of the activities and building synergies, holding a partners workshop and identification of areas/activities for the involvement of partners. The last meeting with ILRI concerned particularly the issue of creating an African AnGR database, the options for setting up strategic partnerships and the development of a roadmap to establish an African Information system/hub for AnGR were discussed.

The consultations were also meant to understand the current performance of the institutions visited and to insure that the institutions have the capacity to conduct the activities under the project, the different institutions met were also assessed to determine their ability to provide services efficiently and effectively towards the project's goals. During the different consultations, opportunities were given to visit some conservation facilities (*Ex situ* and *In situ*). In CIRDES the laboratories and facilities were assessed while in ITC/WALIC infrastructures and the genetic improvement program at the station in KENEBA were assessed.

After the different visits and discussion, there was a need for clarification or re-alignment of roles and responsibilities of the institutional partners in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Genetic project and its responsiveness to its recipients and the donor. In particular, the institutional partners have recognized that as the number Executing Agencies increases, and as resources are constrained relative to the importance of the issue of AnGR on the continent, coordination is more critical than ever. In seeking to address these objectives and challenges, it was important for the AU-IBAR to continue to build on the comparative advantage of the various institutional entities that constitute the partnership and be more responsive to recipients and the donor.

The main objective of the partners meeting was to discuss and agree on the roles and responsibilities of each implementing partner and potential partners to contribute

towards the achievement of the goals of the Genetics Project. The specific objectives were to share and agree on the expected contribution of each partner to the Project and to expose partners to the AU-IBAR contracts requirements (AU financial and procurement rules and regulations).

Participants to the meeting were from FAO, ILRI, RUFORUM, ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, CIRDES, ITC/WALIC and AU-IBAR.

Presentations and Discussions

Process of the meeting

The meeting was based on two main items:

- Presentation of the Project Matrix
- Presentation of the AU-IBAR rules and regulations

Presentation of the Project Matrix

Based on the results of the discussions and visits to partners and taking into account all the conclusions, a matrix was developed and proposed to the partners during a meeting organized in Uganda on 8th March 2014, back to back with the workshop aiming at the establishment of the regional focal point for East Africa and the partners round table meeting.

The proposed matrix outlines the lead roles and responsibilities of the AU-IBAR with a special focus on the roles of the Genetic Team and the four main Implementing Agencies (ILRI, FAO, ITC/WALIC and CIRDES) and three other Agencies identified during the meeting (ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD, RUFORUM). This matrix is designed to enhance their partnership by clarifying the interactions among them as well as their interactions with countries and other potential executing agencies.

The matrix was constructed by listing the project tasks or activities down the vertical side of the matrix and the project Partners who is responsible for planning and ensuring that each task is executed properly on the horizontal side of the matrix.

Each result and activity was scrutinized and partners that were allocated the activities agreed, disagreed or fine-tuned the formulation of the proposed tasks offered to them. During the discussions, RUFORUM, ASARECA, CORAF/WECARD not

included in the original list of the implementing partners have proposed/identified activities where they think they could play a role and where they have a comparative advantage. An amended matrix taking into consideration the suggestions from plenary was produced. The matrix below indicates the final agreed roles of each partner in the project implementation. While presenting this matrix, it was stressed that all activities will be undertaken in a spirit of enhanced partnership, with a lead entity (AU-IBAR) exercising its responsibility in continued consultation and collaboration with the other entities.

The Roles and Responsibility amended during the discussions

FAO will contribute to:

Results1: The status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa established.

Activity 1: Establish the state of AnGR in West Central and East Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction.

- Provide access to results of analyses of Country Reports for the 2nd SoW-AnGR.
- Collaborate to foster synergies in covering countries and harmonizing approaches under “TCP RAF 3403”.

Activity 2: An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal.

- Provide access to results of analyses of Country Reports for the 2nd SoW-AnGR.
- Provide technical backstopping in analysis of information.
- Collaborate to foster synergies in covering countries and harmonizing approaches under “TCP RAF 3403”.

Activity 3: Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production and management systems ie. crossbreeding with exotic breed, intensification, transhumance and commercialisation on local AnGR.

- Provide access to results of analyses of Country Reports for the 2nd SoW-AnGR.
- Provide “off-line tool” and other support for harmonized collection of PEDs information.
- Participation on the analysis of existing policies and regulations.

Activity 4: Assessment of selection programs (including breeding objectives) on animal genetic diversity in West, Central and East Africa.

- Provide information or technical backstopping in studies.

Results 2 Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed

Activity 1: Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies

- Provide technical backstopping in the in designing guidelines - crossbreeding section in breeding and In Vivo guidelines
- Harmonization of crossbreeding policies

Activity 2: Develop regional frameworks and policies for in situ and ex situ conservation.

- Will assist in developing the frameworks.
- Development of general policy document.

Activity 3: Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials.

- Provide technical backstopping in developing the standards and protocols.
- Liaise with CGRFA to ensure legal compliance.

Result 3: National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established

Activity 1: Support member states to establish and implement their National Action Plan for AnGR within their livestock policy.

- Provide capacity building to “train the trainers at regional level” on institutional development and NSAP.

Activity 2: Support member states to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for AnGR.

- Part of NSAP.

Activity 3: Support the development of regional (REC based) conservation policies and strategies for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk.

- Provide technical backstopping in in policy formulation & development.

Activity 4: Support the establishment of a regional/sub-regional facility for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage and establish a gene bank on AnGR.

- Serve on “Advisory Board”; software “cryo-web” available in DAD-is (Europe) national to regional.

Activity 5: Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders’ associations.

- FAO has guidelines on general establishment of associations.

Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.

Activity 1: Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for Characterization and Inventory of AnGR.

- Will assist in developing harmonized tools, possibly e-learning: to develop tools for each species for capture of individual phenotypic characterization data and compilation of breed-wise statistics for DAD-IS.

Activity 2: Establishment of AnGR database.

- Could assist on interoperability of database with DAD-IS: regional display?
- DAD-IS training.

Activity 3: Establish and strengthen regional monitoring of trends and associated risks of trans-boundary breeds.

- Develop transboundary breed tool for DAD-IS (national tool already available).

Activity 5: Establish or strengthen regional focal points for AnGR.

- Will assist in strengthen National, sub-regional, regional focal points.

ILRI will contribute to:

Results1: The status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa established.

Activity 1: Establish the state of AnGR in West Central and East Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction.

- Participation on the analysis and interpretation of identified threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction.

Activity 2: An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal.

- Participation in the analysis of existing policies and regulations.

Activity 3: Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production and management systems ie. crossbreeding with exotic breed, intensification, transhumance and commercialization on local AnGR.

- Provide some information at continental level and/or oversee studies, genomic markers.
- Participation on the analysis of existing policies and regulations.
- To facilitate the specific studies in the regions (Assessment studies on socio-economic, genomic and environmental impacts).

Activity 4: Assessment of selection programs (including breeding objectives) on animal genetic diversity in West, Central and East Africa.

- Provide information or technical backstopping in studies.
- Participation in the analysis of selection programs.
- To facilitate the specific studies in the region (Assessment studies on socio-economic, genomic and environmental impacts).

Results 2 Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed

Activity 1: Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies.

- Participation in the guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies.

Activity 3: Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials.

- Participation in developing the standards and protocols.

Result 3: National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established

Activity 3: Support the development of regional (REC based) conservation policies and strategies for transboundary breeds and populations that are at risk.

- Participation in policy formulation & development.

Activity 4: Support the establishment of a regional/sub-regional facility for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage and establish a gene bank on AnGR

- Provide the back-up gene bank as part of their bio-bank.

Activity 5: Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations.

- Build on approaches from East Africa Dairy work.

Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.

Activity 1: Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for Characterization and Inventory of AnGR.

- Will assist in developing harmonized tools.

Activity 2: Establishment of AnGR database.

- Will assist in developing database, expand country DAGRIS.

Activity 3: Establish and strengthen regional monitoring of trends and associated risks of trans-boundary breeds.

- Through ILRI could assist in protocols/systems for monitoring of trends.

Activity 5: Establish or strengthen regional focal points for AnGR.

- Provide technical support to the national focal points, S-RFP, regional focal points.

CIRDES will contribute to:

Results1: The status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa established.

Activity 1: Establish the state of AnGR in West Central and East Africa to identify threatened ruminant breeds and breeds at risk of extinction.

- Analysis and interpretation of results.

Activity 2: An inventory and assessment of existing policies and regulations on the use of animal.

- Participation on the analysis of existing policies and regulations.

Activity 3: Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production and management systems ie. crossbreeding with exotic breed, intensification, transhumance and commercialization on local AnGR.

- Participate in the identification of criteria to define the case studies.
- To facilitate the specific studies in the region.
- (CORAF to provide information on study with Zebu introgression Transhumance studies).

Activity 4: Assessment of selection programs (including breeding objectives) on animal genetic diversity in West, Central and East Africa.

- Participation in the analysis of selection programs.

Results 2 Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed

Activity 1: Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies.

- Participation in the guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies.

Activity 3: Develop technical standards and protocols (including property rights and benefits sharing) for the exchange and use of genetic materials.

- Participation in developing the standards and protocols.

Result 3: National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established

Activity 2: Support member states to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for AnGR.

- Monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdiction.

Activity 3: Support the development of regional (REC based) conservation policies and strategies for trans-boundary breeds and populations that are at risk.

- Participation in policy formulation and development.

Activity 4: Support the establishment of a regional/sub-regional facility for ex situ conservation, in particular cryogenic storage and establish a gene bank on AnGR.

- Possibly hosting & animating of a Regional Gene Bank (West Africa).

Activity 5: Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations.

- Participation in the identification of the livestock breeders' associations.
- Monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdictions.

Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.

Activity 1: Develop harmonized tools (protocols) for Characterization and Inventory of AnGR.

- Will assist in developing harmonized tools.

Activity 3: Establish and strengthen regional monitoring of trends and associated risks of trans-boundary breeds.

- Implement the monitoring system at regional level.

Activity 5: Establish or strengthen regional focal points for AnGR.

- Will participate to the consultations.
- Provide technical support to the S-RFP.

WALIC will contribute to:

Results1: The status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa established.

Activity 3: Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production and management systems ie. crossbreeding with exotic breed, intensification, transhumance and commercialization on local AnGR.

- To facilitate the specific studies in the region.
- To start proposed project on transhumance.

Activity 4: Assessment of selection programs (including breeding objectives) on animal genetic diversity in West, Central and East Africa.

- To facilitate the specific studies in the region.
- Participation on the analysis of selection programs.

Results 2 Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed

Activity 1: Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies.

- Take active part in designing the guidelines (for regional & Ndama - Djalonke programs consideration).

Result 3: National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established

Activity 2: Support member states to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for AnGR.

- Monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdiction.

Activity 3: Support the development of regional (REC based) conservation policies and strategies for trans-boundary breeds and populations that are at risk.

- Participation in policy formulation & development.

Activity 5: Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations.

- Participation in the identification of the livestock breeders' associations.
- Monitoring the implementation of specific actions in the countries in their jurisdictions.

Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.

Activity 3: Establish and strengthen regional monitoring of trends and associated risks of trans-boundary breeds.

- Implement the monitoring system at regional level.

Activity 2: Establishment of AnGR database.

- Participate in the AnGR database.

Activity 5: Establish or strengthen regional focal points for AnGR.

- Will participate to the consultations.
- Provide technical support to the S-RFP.

ASARECA, CORAF/WERCARD and RUFORUM will contribute to:

Results1: The status and trends of animal genetic resources in West, Central and East Africa established.

Activity 3: Assessment of the genetic and socio-economic impact of production and management systems ie. crossbreeding with exotic breed, intensification, transhumance and commercialization on local AnGR.

- Participate on the assessment for East Africa (ASARECA an RUFORUM) and West Africa (CORAF/WECARD).

Activity 4: Assessment of selection programs (including breeding objectives) on animal genetic diversity in West, Central and East Africa.

- Provide technical backstopping in the studies.

Results 2 Policy frameworks for the sustainable use of AnGR developed

Activity 1: Develop national, regional and continental guidelines for the formulation and harmonization of crossbreeding policies.

- Participate in the development of guidelines.

Result 3: National and regional conservation and improvement strategies and initiatives strengthened or established

Activity 2: Support member states to establish or strengthen their national breeding and conservation strategies as part of their National Action Plan for AnGR.

- Participate in supporting MS in their jurisdictions

Activity 5: Support the establishment and strengthening of national and regional livestock breeders' associations.

- Participate based on their on-going involvement with breeders across the regions.

Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.

Activity 5: Establish or strengthen regional focal points for AnGR.

- ASARECA to support S-RFP for East Africa.

All Partners will contribute to:

Result 4: Knowledge, attitude and practice of the contribution of livestock and livestock sector to economic growth, food security and poverty reduction, promoted.

Activity 4: Develop regional networks for information sharing.

- This activity will consist of strengthening or establishing new one (network for coordination of regional initiatives, position of Africa Pre-ITWG).

Activity 6: Document and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt from AnGR conservation and improvement initiatives.

- Make available, share best practice on AnGR initiatives for compilation and publication (joint publication of all partners).

A roadmap of the implementation was agreed to with the partners. The amended matrix will be shared with the partners for their review, consent and validation. Memorandums of Agreement will be drafted and sent to the partners for their approval prior to implementation of the activities.

Presentation of the AU-IBAR rules and regulations

AU-IBAR made presentations on the Financial Rules and Regulations of the AUC. The purpose of the presentation done was to define the fundamental principles and conditions of prudent financial management of the resources of the African Union and to lay down the general principles for financial and resource management which shall govern the utilisation of the resources of the Organs and Institutions of the African Union effectively, efficiently and economically.

It was clearly stressed to the partners that they should adhere to these rules and regulations during the implementation of the project. The partners expressed general satisfaction with the rules and regulations presented. It was agreed that AU-IBAR will draft the contracts based on this matrix and this will be shared with partners for comments before submission to AU Legal office for clearance.

Conclusion

After the presentation a roadmap of the implementation was agreed to with the partners. Emphasis was also placed on the presentations on the Financial Rules and Regulations of the AUC. Discussions based on the presentations showed that partners expressed a general satisfaction with the Matrix and the rules and regulations presented.

Outcomes of the Meeting:

- i. AU-IBAR should send the amended matrix of activities to the partners and potential partners
- ii. Based on the Comments made by partners on the matrix AU-IBAR should initiate the drafting of the Memorandums of Agreement with the various partners to ensure effective implementation of the project
- iii. When agreement is reached AU-IBAR will draft the contracts and this will be shared with partners for comments before submission to AU Legal office for clearance.
- iv. AOB.



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