



AFRICAN UNION  
INTERAFRICAN BUREAU  
FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES



# PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA

Policy Brief: 2



## KEY MESSAGES

- *Public Private Partnerships for animal genetic resources (AnGR) conservation can contribute to the promotion and dissemination of innovations but also preserve what exists as an indispensable and powerful tool for development*
- *Public-private partnerships are becoming crucial in the leverage of financial resources for AnGR conservation and management*
- *Public private partnerships can result in a 'win-win' solution to provide AnGR related goods and services.*

## INTRODUCTION

The full potential of AnGR, in Africa, is far from being realized and these genetic resources face serious erosion. For their conservation and management AnGR improvement require the public and the private sectors to play an important role. A few forms of partnerships exist and are applied, these are mostly used through contracting out of certain services and concession of specific areas under strict conditions. Partnerships requires that the different stakeholders be in line and formulate a common goal, the capacity of the partners and their willingness is important for success. Partnerships between public and private sectors may help to enhance the performances, this suggests that there should willingness, trust, partners should be able to share the responsibility and exchange information. The private ownership of AnGR, rather than AnGR being public goods, may be a factor in the absence of PPPs in countries in Africa. Although the concept and practice of PPPs in AnGR are in operation in some countries of Europe and elsewhere, its development in much of Africa is at its infancy stages. There are few examples of governments and development partners (bilateral or multilateral) joining hands in partnerships in conservation efforts, but the third component, the private sector, which makes a true public-private partnerships come alive, is often missing. The debate on the promotion of PPP for AnGR conservation could be appropriately put in the public domain and on the international development agenda.

## POLICY RELATED ISSUES

Efforts to accelerate Public Private Partnerships for AnGR must address among others:

- Policy makers normally rely on different frameworks or planning models to map out their responsibilities and to integrate their activities so that they can fulfill their missions efficiently and effectively. However, in the different countries, many policy makers still have limited awareness of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use

of local AnGR. The importance of stakeholder engagement in the conservation and management of AnGR genetic diversity is key. In situations where AnGR currently have a low direct use value, they may nonetheless be particularly valuable for future use, which will require the public and private sectors to play an important role in AnGR conservation and management.

- Financing AnGR services remain a major challenge in both the public and private sectors. Awareness is seen as necessary to increase funding for the conservation of local AnGR breeds.
- Public services in the agriculture-livestock domains have traditionally been in the provision of support to overcome animal diseases and outbreaks that are deemed to have immediate impact on the public. For AnGR, there is a general belief that the private ownership makes it somewhat difficult for even governments to inject resources into their wellbeing, not to talk about engaging private sectors to partner with governments in intervening.
- In most of the countries, where the public expect that the provides infrastructures, there is a need to have holistic legal framework that will ensure the successful execution of PPP projects on conservation of animal genetic resources and to also ensure that investors benefit from their investments.
- Barriers in accessing AnGR related goods and services, in particular, are well documented and may be traced to many sources. The AnGR workforce remains small and unevenly distributed, and institutions that provide AnGR goods and services remain mostly concentrated in urban centers or at academic and research centers.
- One of the most common public assets is infrastructure, and there is a general lack of infrastructure in marginal areas where local AnGR breeds are often found. This impairs the introduction of genetic improvement/conservation programs. Traditionally, PPPs are seen as long-term contracts between a private party and a government entity, for providing a public good or service, in which the private party bears significant risk and management responsibility, and where remuneration is linked to performance. The community-based management of AnGR is the most common strategy in these areas and as such requires appropriate support services and specifically designed incentive measures.
- Conservation of genetic diversity between and within domestic animal breeds is an insurance for the future. There is currently a lack of linkages between AnGR and wildlife at landscape management as a route to increase possibilities and opportunities for PPP. Most research on biodiversity has focused on farmed species, with insufficient attention to the wild relatives of domesticated animals. This is a problem made particularly acute by the frequent endangerment of wild relatives (owing to human activities such as overgrazing).
- The important role for breeder organizations or associations is noted in designing and implementing breed use and development programmes, including coordinating

performance recording and the evaluation of breeding stock. There is a lack of conducive environments for livestock owners/farmers who participate in public led interventions in AnGR improvement programmes. Establishment of breeder organizations ensure opportunities for the involvement of farmers and breeders in livestock policy development.

- There are weak research institutions caused by insufficient investment by both the public and private sectors as well as the weak enhancement of communication and inadequate networking among scientists within and between countries, and the need better to share the results of research on animal genetic resources.

## **LESSONS LEARNED PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR AnGR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Private functions and public interest**

Public-private-partnership is a mode of implementing government conservations programmes in partnership with the private sector. The values of AnGR are derived from the private functions plus the functions of public interest. Animals grazing on common land not only grow and produce milk and wool, but they also transfer nutrients from the grazing area to where they are kept at night and dung can be collected for private use. Such transfers often involve changes from low to high quality and value, and public to private resources.

### **In situ and ex situ conservations programmes**

In the public sector, in Africa, in situ and ex situ conservations programmes are relatively few. The historical and recent records show that the private sector components are often missing. Governments have in the past supported various ex situ conservations with their own resources, as those efforts had been part of normal subventions provided to research institutions, livestock breeding and multiplication centres. Ex situ conservation requires appropriate infrastructure, organization, technical capacity, agreed priorities, sustained funding and (new) legal arrangements. These are established mainly for conservation of back-up collections and are not involved in large-scale exchange programmes.

### **Financial support**

In situ conservation were most of the time located over large expanses of area and involved many communities, that become complex in their undertakings, and required private sector partnerships. In Africa, rarely do public funded institutions, being academic or research institutions, receive the level of financial support from private companies whose core businesses coincides with the agenda of the public institutions. Although in the agricultural research domain, there is increasing evidence that some public companies may be funding specific studies at public institutions that have some good chance of producing results that will enhance the companies' businesses. This trend has not been observed in

the practice of private sector participation in conservation of AnGR programmes, initiated by country governments or development partners.

### **AnGR and livestock owners**

Livestock owners have in many situations over the years offered their animals (AnGR) free of charge for various studies and experimentations by public institutions. AnGR used for breeding are mainly under private control and ownership and their exchange is often regulated by the transfer of private ownership. In most Africa countries, breeders' associations (various livestock) and private companies do not play a key role in the operation of breeding programmes. Breeders in (the public sector) in most African countries are interested in having access to exotic high-productive breeding material. Of all the issues surrounding AnGR, the one that has aroused the interest of governments and their policy makers, is the recent awareness created about the disappearance through extinction of several breeds of livestock, and the proposed solution to protect endangered breeds through conservation

## **SETTING THE POLICY AGENDA**

The Agenda setting for policy discussions, formulation and the communication of the policies should consider:

### **Enhance involvement of the private sector**

Many African countries need financial assistance to implement their agricultural national strategic priorities. There is a need for long-term donor commitments, as animal genetic improvement projects and human resources capacity building programmes usually takes several years to achieve the desired outcomes. Reducing the current erosion of AnGR require significant and long-term investments. Financial resources need to be mobilized from within countries and from donors to support and implement priority measures for conservation and sustainable use. The enhanced involvement of the private sector, non-governmental organizations and foundations will be highly beneficial.

### **Consideration of livestock owners as partners in PPPs schemes**

Awareness should be created on the participation of livestock owners/farmers in AnGR projects in the past and present, including conservation and breed improvement programmes and the risks the livestock owners/farmers have borne and continue to bear in those ventures, with the view to advocate for their recognition as valid partners in PPPs in the AnGR domain.

### **Specialized breeders**

Groups of "specialized breeders" should be created, specialized in selective breeding

of animals for sale to others, who in turn use them for production or for further breeding purposes. These groups should include private companies, cooperative breeding organizations, state-run breeding farms and individual farmers.

### **Create and put in place mechanisms**

The private sector is often apprehensive of taking risks and need guarantee mechanisms that instill business confidence. Public and private sector actors often have different organizational cultures and may be apprehensive about each other's motives. A willingness to try new ways of doing things is essential, coupled with effective leadership. It is of utmost importance to create and put in place a functional mechanism/platform where the public and the private sector regularly consult to enhance understanding among public and private stakeholders, to identify specific areas in which partnership arrangements would be beneficial, to openly discuss issues pertaining to their respective roles and linkages among them.

### **Learn from other sectors**

There is a need to learn from other sectors where governments provide infrastructure and private sector manages it.

### **Creating an enabling policy environment for an effective and efficient PPP**

A PPP stable environment is essential to facilitate the development of partnerships and encourage the private sector involvement. Policy changes are focusing on minimizing the role of the public sector and encouraging private sector participation. There is an urgent need to consider legal, institutional reform measures to improve the performance of the public sector. Coherent policies, appropriate reforms, as well as clear laws and regulations need to be developed to ensure an enabling environment, and minimize corruption.

## **POLICY OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Policy options to resolve some of the outstanding issues and to promote and establish PPPs in the AnGR include:

- Governments should establish mechanisms within countries to enhance interaction among all the main stakeholders in the livestock sector, including public agencies and private sector interests, farmers, farmer organizations, research and education institutions.
- Governments should strengthen research programmes that are directly related to the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources through enhanced investments by both the public and private sectors.
- Governments should Increase efforts to promote understanding of the need to conserve animal genetic resources within the private sector, and promote private

sector involvement in conservation initiatives.

- Governments should develop and/or create conducive environments needed for flourishing public-private partnerships in the AnGR domains and should work towards inter-sector collaboration among livestock, wildlife, as a means of bringing the private sector participation in projects/programmes that seek to create development opportunities for communities.
- Governments should undertake discussions on wider definitions on what constitute “public goods” with a view to opening possibilities to include AnGR and the services they provide in “public funding” categories in order to attract private sector participation in partnership ventures. These discussions should also lead to adequate and fair reward systems that would encourage private sector participation, similar to what pertains in infrastructure development projects.
- Governments involved in the development of AnGR, including the conservation of AnGR under threats of extinction, should provide a range of incentives to farmers to further encourage their participation. These incentives including, financial payments for farmers maintaining indigenous breeds, tax breaks, subsidized loans, must be geared towards a provision of broader space for the development of public-private partnerships similar to those in non-agricultural/livestock sectors, such as road and rail construction, schools and hospital constructions.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many persons have contributed to the preparation of this document through their constructive feedback and suggestions. These inputs provided a vital contribution to the planning and completion of this policy brief. AU-IBAR wishes to thank them for their interest and support.

This policy brief was made possible through financial support provided by the European Union (EU) funded Project “**Strengthening the Capacity of African Countries to Conservation and Sustainable Utilisation of African Animal Genetic Resources**”. The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and under no circumstances should be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

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