



LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES - 2013 -

Country: Austria

SECTION 1: SUSTAINABLE USE, DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION OF ANIMAL GENETIC RESOURCES

This section targets information on legislation and policies related specifically to the management of animal genetic resources, i.e. to:

- characterization, surveying and monitoring;
- sustainable use and development;
- conservation; and
- research and development related to animal genetic resources management.

It also includes issues related to patenting and access and benefit sharing. Instruments in these fields of action may or may not include specific provisions related to animal genetic resources or to relevant broader categories such as living organisms or genetic resources for food and agriculture.

1. Overall management of animal genetic resources

Note: In the policy field, this might include, for example, a national strategy and action plan for animal genetic resources.

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Austrian agricultural legislation and policy comply with the legislation and policies of the European Union and are part of the Common Agricultural Policy. The Austrian Farm Act regulates [agricultural issues on a national basis \(http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010681\)](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010681).

The national policy can be downloaded following <http://www.lebensministerium.at/en/initiatives/Agriculture2020.html>

The Animal Welfare Act (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003541>)

contains the minimal standards for the management of animal genetic resources.

The Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL is the Austrian programme to promote agricultural production methods compatible with the requirements of the protection of the environment, extensive production, and the maintenance of the countryside.

Special legislation for the management of AnGR is in the responsibility of the Federal countries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The national legislation and policy enable an efficient and sustainable management of animal genetic resources. The target is to strengthen the small structured Austrian farms and to further develop animal production.

Future needs

Research and development concerning alternative production methods and raising the efficiency of animal production will play an important role in the implementation of the next programmes.

2. Integration of animal genetic resources management with the management of other genetic resources for food and agriculture (plant, forest or aquatic genetic resources)

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The subsidy policy in the framework of ELER and national programmes affect management measures in all fields of agriculture. The principles of a socio-ecological system of agriculture are implied in the Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL applying to and integrating all fields of agricultural production.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The initiative Agriculture 2020 (See 1.) integrates animal genetic resources into a nation-wide multifunctional model on a socio-economic base. At the core lies the strengthening of a sustainable farm-based agriculture and forestry.

Future needs

The education and guidance system is of great significance for the entire agricultural sector. The strengthening of the system will be very important for the management of animal genetic resources.

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

In compliance with EU regulations cattle, sheep, goats, horses and pigs must be registered for sanitary reasons and every movement of animals is registered in central databases. Legal base is the "Tierkennzeichnungsverordnung 2009" (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20006454>) and the "Rinderkennzeichnungsverordnung 2008" (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20005854>). Concerning poultry and rabbits only the farms that keep the animals are registered.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The central databases are the base of a regular monitoring. A yearly census of all animals of one species is made. The breeding organisations monitor and report the number of breeding animals from the informations in the database.

Future needs

A central database for horses is under development. Better monitoring for poultry breeds kept on small farms will be needed in the future.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

According to EU law an imported breed has to be recognized in Austria if a breeding organisation exists. The animal breeding laws of the Federal countries regulate the official recognition of breeds and breeding organisations.

Animal breeding laws of the Federal Countries:

Wien:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrW/LRWI_L210_000/LRWI_L210_000.pdf

Steiermark:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrStmk/LRST_6300_003/LRST_6300_003.pdf

Salzburg:

<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung/LrSbg/20000619/S.TZG%2c%20Fassung%20vom%2014.10.2013.pdf>

Oberösterreich:

<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung/LrOO/20000562/O%2c%20Tierzuchtgesetz%202009%2c%20Fassung%20vom%2014.10.2013.pdf>

Burgenland:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Lgbl/LGBL_BU_20090203_19/LGBL_BU_20090203_19.pdf

Kärnten:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Lgbl/LGBL_KA_20090127_1/LGBL_KA_20090127_1.pdf

Vorarlberg:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Lgbl/LGBL_VO_20090120_1/LGBL_VO_20090120_1.pdf

Tirol:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/Lgbl/LGBL_TI_20080701_38/LGBL_TI_20080701_38.pdf

Niederösterreich:

http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrNo/LRNI_2011002/LRNI_2011002.pdf

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The legislation enables an exact census of local and imported breeds. The breeding organisations are responsible for monitoring the populations, registering of breeding animals and recording of production traits. The results are published in yearly reports.

Future needs

The current legislation and policies are sufficient.

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Legislation on animal breeding has to comply with relevant EU law. The Federal Countries are responsible for animal breeding matters and genetic improvement strategies. National working groups on cattle, horses, pigs, sheep and goats co-ordinate the policies in the Federal countries (www.zar.at, www.pferdezucht-austria.at, www.schweine.at, <http://alpinetgheep.com/400-0-Oesterreichischer-Bundesverband-fuer-Schafe-und-Ziegen.html>, www.oengene.at)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The scientific background of animal breeding and animal improvement strategies in Austria is on a high level. The long tradition of animal breeding plans in Austria has led to a significant presence of Austrian breeding stock in the export market, especially in cattle.

Future needs

As the market for breeding animals changes constantly the adaptation of breeding strategies is an ongoing task. Non-production traits like fitness, fertility and adaptability get more important and are integrated into the genetic improvement strategies.

Do these measures address:

5.1 Animal identification and recording

Note: Sections 2 and 3 include questions on traceability and on animal identification as it relates to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Basic legislation on animal identification see point 3. Recording of production traits is in the responsibility of the federal countries and regulated in the animal breeding laws (see 4.). The recording of production traits has a long tradition in Austria, e.g. milk-recording according to ICAR rules started in 1955.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The constant monitoring has led to a high average performance of the animals and significant breeding progress. Data on fertility and longevity are also available on a reliable and broad basis and influence the decisions on animal breeding plans.

Future needs

In the future the development of new methods to record and quantify non-production traits will be an important task.

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legislation see point 4. Breeders' associations in Austria are organised privately but are controlled by the Federal Countries and the State. A newly established breeders' organisation has to be acknowledged officially. The organisation is responsible for the registering of breeding animals, keeping the herdbook, defining a breed standard and breeding goal. Herdbooks have to be kept in electronic format and sufficient infrastructure and personnel are compulsory. The activities of the breeders' organisation are shown in a compulsory yearly report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The regulations guarantee that a breeders' organisation is competent and works according to approved good practice methods.

Future needs

The current regulation is sufficient.

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legislation on reproductive biotechnologies is included in the Animal Breeding Acts of the Federal Countries (See point 4.) In compliance with EU law only artificial insemination is allowed in organic farming.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Artificial Insemination (AI) is used widely in cattle, pigs and horses. In 2012 95,5% of all cows were inseminated (www.zar.at/article/archive/25). Sexing of semen is used commercially in cattle. Embryo Transfer (ET) plays a minor role. Other reproductive biotechnologies are used only in scientific projects.

Future needs

The use of cloning in animal breeding currently is not an issue in Austria. If it is to be used in the future adequate regulations will be needed.

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

Yes

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

Use of genetically modified animals and their products is forbidden in agricultural production in Austria. Imported products containing GMO may be used for feedstuff but must be labeled accordingly. (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20004526>)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Currently no impact.

Future needs

Organic farming plays an important role in Austrian agriculture. To further protect the organic sector use of GMOs in agriculture is not desirable.

8. Suitability of imported genetic material for use in local production environments

Note: For example, rules requiring a "genetic assessment" before genetic material can be introduced.

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

As animal breeding is organised on a private level any imported breed or strain can be used by breeders if the animals fulfil the zoosanitary measures and are not genetically modified organisms.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

A variety of breeds has been imported to Austria especially during the last years. Some of them have established breeders organisations and joined the official recording schemes. The owners themselves decide about the use of the breed.

Future needs

Scientific evaluation of the efficiency of imported breeds in local production environments would provide more data and enable guidance for farmers.

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Conservation programmes are part of the Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL. Legal base is the Council Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32005R1698:EN:NOT>). The Austrian Rural Development policy 2007-2013 contains ÖPUL (http://www.lebensministerium.at/dms/lmat/land/laendl_entwicklung/rechtsinfo/OEPUL/SRL_OEPUL_2007.pdf) In this programme a measure for the conservation of rare breeds is integrated. Details of the conservation programme can be seen on the website www.oengene.at.

The national strategy for FAnGR was established in 1995 in the framework of the CBD dealing only with Austrian rare breeds. Currently a comprehensive new national strategy involving the Federal Countries is under development and will be implemented in 2015.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The 3rd conservation programme is coming to an end in 2014. Since the start of the programmes in 1995 the populations of all rare breeds have grown significantly and no breed has been lost. Sustainable development has enabled some rare breeds to re-enter the market.

Future needs

The development of a contingent and sustainable new conservation programme with adequate funding on the base of the former 3 programmes in the framework of ÖPUL 2015 - 2020.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 In vivo conservation

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

In vivo - on farm conservation is the core of the ÖPUL measure "Rare Breeds". Only herdbook animals with purebred offspring

can be entered in the programme. For breeds with very small populations planned mating is compulsory. The farmer gets subsidies per breeding animal. The breeding organisation in charge confirms the eligibility of the animals for the program on a yearly basis. Monitoring of population and genetic trends is done by the National Focal Point.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

See 9.

Future needs

See 9.

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The Austrian Gene Bank for Farm Animals has its legal base in the Bundesanstaltengesetz (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003462>). In §17 (3) 4. the collection and conservation of genetic material is a specified task.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Institute of Organic Farming and Biodiversity of Farm Animals hosts the Austrian Gene Bank and is responsible for the collection and conservation of material. The collection consists of an extensive semen bank mostly of rare breeds, a backup collection of the AI industry and a collection of genomic DNA for scientific purposes.

Future needs

The completion of the semen and DNA collection and an additional archive of somatic cells will be the future tasks.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Austria has a long standing tradition in the field of research on animal genetic resources. The University of Agriculture (www.boku.ac.at), the University of Veterinary Science (www.vetmeduni.ac.at), the research department of the Ministry of Life (www.lebensministerium.at), research centres (www.raumberg-gumpenstein.at) and other research institutes all are part of the research policy and contribute results.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The results of intensive research have strong influence on the management of animal genetic resources in Austria. From genetic aspects to production and use of feedstuffs and construction of easily workable, animal-friendly infrastructure research makes possible further development of the animal production sector.

Future needs

To develop the sector further adequate funding and personnel resources in research will be needed.

11. Patenting

Legislation

If legislation is place or under development, does/will it include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture

Living organisms in general

Details of the measure(s)

The Austrian legislation and policy agree with the legislation and policies of the European Union. EU: Richtlinie 98/44/EG, – European Patent Agreement (EPÜ): Races of plants and animals are not to be patented, Art. 53 b EPÜ; AT: Patents Act (Patentgesetz, §1).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

A change of Act would have powerful effects on the management of Animal Genetic Resources in EU/Austria.

Future needs

Decisions in the EU about the legality of future patenting praxis.

12. Access and benefit sharing arrangements

Note: The Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, on 8 August 2013, invited countries to report on the conditions under which genetic resources for food and agriculture are exchanged and used (Circular State Letter C/ NRD-5). Please coordinate responses within your country.

Legislation Policy

If instruments are in place or under development, do/will they include provisions (including exemptions) specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources for food and agriculture Genetic resources for food and agriculture in general

Details of the measure(s)

At the time no specific legislation on ABS is in place in Austria. The exchange of animal genetic resources is free and only zoohygienic measures are applied.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The free market for animal genetic resources influences the further development positively. In the integrated sector (poultry and increasingly pigs) ABS rules of the involved enterprises are applied.

Future needs

When Austria ratifies the Nagoya Protocol legislation will be developed accordingly.

SECTION 2: MARKETING AND CONSUMER INFORMATION AND PROTECTION

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing the marketing of animal products, including those addressing:

- the production and marketing of organic products;
- the production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels;
- production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to animal-welfare-related standards; and
- food safety.

While some policies and legislation in these fields of action may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Consumer demand for animal products often has a major influence on the use and development of animal genetic resources. A lack of demand may place a breed at risk of extinction. Marketing initiatives for breed-specific products, or products from production systems in which locally adapted breeds are kept, can provide a means of promoting the use of at-risk breeds and reducing the risk that they will become extinct. Legislation and policies that facilitate initiatives of this kind can have a positive effect in terms of the maintenance of animal genetic diversity. Conversely, legislation and policies that inhibit the marketing of particular types of products, or products from particular locations or production systems, may inhibit the use of animal genetic resources associated with these products, locations or production systems.

1. Marketing of animal products in general

Note: This question refers to measures that are not specifically focused on market subsectors such as organic products or products with designated labels of origin.

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The national legal basis for food safety and control is the Austrian Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act of 2006 (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010375>) which integrates provisions resulting from EU Regulations on food safety, food control and food hygiene. Assurance of the best possible supply of high-quality foodstuffs is an official objective of the Austrian agricultural policy laid down in the Farm Act of 1992 (see Section 1).

In Austria, the Federal Ministry of Health (www.bmg.gv.at) has the overall responsibility for food safety legislation and food safety control. It coordinates the activities of the food inspection authorities of the nine Federal Provinces and of laboratories designated for analyses of official samples.

Agrarmarkt Austria Marketing (www.ama.at) is responsible for carrying out all agricultural marketing across Austria. Alongside the promotion of agricultural marketing, its role includes the following: Instituting quality improvement measures, developing and applying quality guidelines for agricultural products and the processed products derived from them, applying classic techniques in advertising, sales promotion and PR with the objective to make people aware of the significance of the quality and freshness of foodstuffs, and of their origins. 2 official seals, the AMA seal for conventional products and the AMA organic seal for organic products certify that the foodstuff meets the highest quality standards.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Austrian consumer wants safe food of very high quality and local origin at a reasonable price. The management of animal genetic resources and animal welfare has reached a high standard and is developing further to meet these demands.

Future needs

The production of food with high quality standards implies higher cost for the producer. To ensure a continuing local high quality farm based production adequate producers' prices are a necessity. Building awareness of consumers that the high standard of animal products in Austria justifies an adequate price is an ongoing task.

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legal base are the European Union Regulations (EC) NO 834/2007 and 889/2008. Austria plays one of the leading roles in Organic Farming in Europe. At present Austria has one of the highest shares of organic farms (16,5%) and almost one fifth of the agricultural land is managed by organic means (19,7%). One of the major principles of organic livestock farming is to use animal breeds, adapted to climatic and other local conditions. Therefore the organic farming sector in Austria contributes to diversity of farm animals by following the above mentioned principle and by supporting the use of rare animal breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Nevertheless the organic livestock sector is as well as the non-organic sector challenged with high economic pressure which tempts livestock farmers changing from extensive to intensive breeds. The latter is mainly focused on principles of high production figures than on principles following the idea of locally adapted low input breeds.

Future needs

Further characterization has to be conducted to develop breeding programs which combine nowadays needs with the approach of extensive and low input farming and to follow new and less intensive approaches within the field of feed management. Next to that consumer awareness has to be developed by all means to make them aware of the importance of old breeds as consumers can be seen as the end of the chain of production and therefore the consumer habits can influence by a high degree the agricultural development.

3. Production and marketing of products sold under protected designations of origin or similar labels

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legal base are the European Union Regulations (EWG: Nr. 2081/1992[3] (§§ 130–136). PDO: Protected Designation of Origin, PGI: Protected geographical Indication, TSG: Traditional speciality guaranteed

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Increase of agricultural value added. Similar labels: 1. "Region of enjoyment" (Genussregionen) 14 protected products, 9 of animal origin. 2. Culinary inheritance Austria (Kulinarisches Erbe Österreich): Guideline for registration.

Future needs

Evaluation of the measures.

4. Production and marketing of products sold under labels indicating adherence to particular animal welfare-related standards

Note: For example, rules relating to the marketing of products as "free range" or under similar designations. Basic animal welfare legislation (i.e. not specifically related to marketing) is covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The basic regulation is EU law. The Markenschutzgesetz (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10002180>) protects registered labels.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Quality labels beside the official AMA seals (see 1.) are promoted mainly by food retailers for high quality products. If the farmer joins such a label compliance with the standards and rules is part of the contract. The standards are higher than the minimal standards in the Animal Welfare Act (See Section 1, Point 1) and will be inspected by the owner of the label or an independent organisation.

Future needs

For a better understanding of animal welfare necessities scientific supervision and evaluation of current and planned programs is needed.

5. Safety of food products from animals

Note: If relevant, include measures related to the marketing of products derived from genetically modified organisms.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

82 national and federal laws and regulations in compliance with EU law deal with the safety of food products. For animal products the control starts at the feed industry and zoo-hygienic level, includes the producing farm and finally the processing and retailing industry to guarantee safe and wholesome food for the consumer.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The considerable effort by farmers and industry has pushed food safety on to a very high standard in Austria.

Future needs

To ensure the high standard already reached sufficient funding and personnel for research and control activities will be needed.

6. Traceability of animal-origin products

Note: Sections 1 and 3 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and to animal health. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Each Austrian farm has its individual registration number (Farm Act, Section 1, point 1). For identification of single animals see Section 1, point 3. The slaughterhouses, dairies and other processing plants have to be registered (Food Safety and Consumer Protection Act, see 1.). The identification system is used to document all movements of animals including slaughter. For milk the producing farm and the dairy company that processes the milk are registered. Austrian products can be traced from stable to table by the registration number that is displayed on the carcass or the package.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The national production is well documented and products can be traced reliably.

Future needs

Documentation of the origin of ingredients of convenience food for the consumer is incomplete at the moment. Further action on European level is needed to achieve better transparency.

SECTION 3: ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

This section targets information on legislation and policies addressing animal health and animal welfare. While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. Animal genetic resources and their management can be affected both by the direct effects of animal diseases and by the effects of measures taken to control animal diseases. For example, a disease epidemic may threaten the existence of at-risk breeds, particularly if their populations are concentrated geographically. Animal diseases, as influenced by the presence of absence of effective animal health services, can also influence the type of animal genetic resources that can be kept in particular locations, influence breeding objectives and/or affect the economic sustainability of livestock-keeping livelihoods. Compulsory culling measures used to control disease epidemics may pose a threat to geographically concentrated breed populations. Legal restrictions on the import of genetic material because of zoosanitary reasons may affect breeders' access to genetic resources. Legal restrictions on livestock movements, restrictions on particular husbandry practices, or onerous requirements for animal health-related actions on the part of livestock keepers (or in the food processing and marketing chain), may inhibit the keeping of animal genetic resources associated with the production systems targeted. Zoosanitary legislation related to the use of semen, embryos and other genetic materials may have implications for cryoconservation programmes. Legal and policy frameworks related to animal welfare might promote or inhibit the keeping of animals in particular production systems or the use of animals to provide specific products or services. In turn, these developments might promote or inhibit the continued use of the animal genetic resources associated with the respective production systems, products or services.

1. Delivery of animal health services and control of animal diseases

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The legal base are the "Tiergesundheitsgesetz" (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10011182>) for overall measures for animal health, the "Tierseuchengesetz" (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010172>) in case of an outbreak of an epidemic disease, the "Tierärztegesetz" (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?>

[Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010369](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=10010369)) for veterinarians and the "Tierarzneimittelkontrollgesetz" (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001741>) regulating the use of drugs for animals. The Federal Countries are responsible for the animal health services. Every farm has to nominate a veterinary of trust. The veterinary visits the farm on a regular schedule. Dispensation of drugs and their application have to be documented completely to ensure that no drugs residues remain in animal products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The current practice ensures healthy and productive animals and has reduced the use of antibiotic drugs as a preventative.

Future needs

The further reduction of the use of pharmaceutical drugs in animal production will only be possible if research in and development of alternative production methods and treatments continues on a high level.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

1.1 Animal identification

Note: Sections 1 and 2 include questions on animal identification as it relates to breeding and on traceability. If relevant, please use cross-references to indicate that a given law or policy affects more than one field of action.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

See Section 1 Point 3.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

See Section 1 Point 3.

Future needs

1.2 Control of the import of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Import of animal genetic resources is regulated by EU law (Directive 88/407/EEC and amendments, Directive 90/429/EEC.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The extensive regulations are effective in avoiding the spreading of epidemic diseases. In case of the conservation of transboundary rare breeds the exchange of breeding material may be very difficult or impossible.

Future needs

A search for a more elastic approach in case of highly endangered transboundary breeds could help to ensure the future of these breeds.

1.3 Control of the export of animal genetic resources (live breeding animals and/or germplasm) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The export of animal genetic resources is regulated by EU law.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The extensive regulations are effective in avoiding the spreading of epidemic diseases. Export of animal genetic resources benefits of the regulations because Austria is free of several important epidemic diseases.

Future needs

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

The use of reproductive techniques is regulated by EU law.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

See 1.1

Future needs

See 1.1

1.5 Control of livestock movements (within the country) for zoosanitary reasons

Legislation Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Legislation see 1. Control is possible because of the rules mentioned in Section 1, Point 5.1 and Section 2, Point 6. Restrictions of livestock movement are only valid in case of the outbreak of an epidemic disease.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The free movement of livestock in the country enhances exchange of breeding material between farms.

Future needs

Keep the positive status.

1.6 Restrictions or compulsory actions related to husbandry practices (for zoosanitary reasons)

Legislation Yes

Details of the measure(s)

For several zoonoses (Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Malta Fever, Paratuberculosis, and Bovine Viral Diarrhoea) periodic testing of susceptible animals and/or products (milk) is compulsory. Testing for other diseases is only compulsory for pedigree herds (MAEDI/CAE).

Free range domestic pigs must be protected from the contact with wild boar (danger of European Swine Fever).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Free range keeping of pigs is desirable from the aspect of animal welfare and consumer preferences but the restrictions raise the price significantly (double fencing).

Future needs

Providing adequate funding to keep up the testing scheme will help to prevent the re-emerging of zoonoses.

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation Yes

If legislation is in place or under development, does/will it include provisions to protect at-risk animal genetic resources from the effects of culling programmes?

No

Details of the measure(s)

In case of the outbreak of certain epidemic diseases (Foot and Mouth, Tuberculosis, Classic and African Swine Fever, Bird Flu, aso.) culling of sick and possibly infected animals is compulsory (Tierseuchengesetz, see 1.).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

To prevent the spreading of a highly contagious epidemic disease culling is a reliable and effective method. In case of the population of a rare breed concentrated in a small geographic region culling may result in extinction of the breed in vivo.

Future needs

Special measures for the protection of rare and endangered animal genetic resources should be integrated into the national action plans. The further completion of the Austrian Gene Bank is a strategic priority.

2. Animal welfare

Legislation Yes

Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Animal Welfare Act (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?>)

[Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003541](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003541)) and the associated regulations (<http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003820> , <http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20003860>) are the legal base for the welfare of animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The rigorous regulations concerning the welfare and health of animals are a typical feature of animal production in Austria. It obligates farmers to keep their animals in ways which suit their species and needs.

Future needs

The assessment of impacts of further improvements in animal welfare on the management of animal genetic resources is necessary to achieve optimal management at moderate cost.

SECTION 4: AGRICULTURE, LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This section targets information on legislation and policies that address the overall management of the production systems, ecosystems and environments within which animal genetic resources are used and developed. The questions address the following main topics:

- general frameworks or strategies for rural development;
- agriculture, land use and natural resources management;
- management of biodiversity;
- other aspects of environmental protection;
- overall livestock-sector development;
- management of rangelands and other grazing lands;
- establishment of livestock farms or holdings
- establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector
- participation of livestock keepers in decision-making in livestock-sector development; and
- prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

While some policies and legislation in these fields may include specific references to animal genetic resources, it is likely that many will not. The latter may, nonetheless, have indirect effects on animal genetic resources and their management. For example, policies and legislation that promote or constrain the keeping of livestock in particular production systems, for particular purposes or in particular geographical areas may promote or discourage the use of the animal genetic resources associated with these systems/uses/locations (hence possibly affecting their risk status), lead to the establishment of breeding objectives targeting the development of animals suitable for the favoured systems/uses/locations or lead to the import of genetic resources suitable for these systems/uses/locations.

1. General framework or strategy for sustainable agriculture, land use and natural-resources management

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments such as national agricultural or rural development policies, strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of agricultural and rural development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The Austrian Agri-Environmental Programme ÖPUL is Austria's programme for the promotion of an agriculture which is appropriate to the environment, extensive and protective of natural habitats. Austria chose an integral, horizontal approach for ÖPUL, which aims at the participation of Austrian farmers all over the country. The legal basis of the programme is a Special Ordinance of the Federal Government which is implemented on a private administration basis and which includes general eligibility criteria and special eligibility criteria for specific measures.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The management of animal genetic resources benefits from ÖPUL. Better housing, more space for animals, more time on pasture and a re-evaluation of organic fertilizer in crop production are part of the changes in animal husbandry already achieved.

Future needs

The development of a contingent and sustainable new programme will further advance sustainable agriculture in Austria.

2. Management of biodiversity

Note: Please use this question to provide information on the general framework for managing all aspects of the country's biodiversity (e.g. instruments related to the designation and management of protected areas). Include, for example, information on whether animal genetic resources issues are included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and on any provisions addressing potential conflicts, or perceived conflicts, between the management of animal genetic resources and the management of other elements of biodiversity. Specific animal genetic-resources-related instruments (e.g National Strategy and Action Plans for Animal Genetic Resources) should be reported in Section 1 (Question 1).

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Austria has ratified the CBD in 1995. In the Austrian National Biodiversity Strategy animal genetic resources are included only regarding the protection of rare breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Austrian National Biodiversity Strategy has little impact on the management of animal genetic resources

Future needs

With the development of an Austrian Strategy for Animal Genetic Resources a better networking between the two strategies is feasible.

3. Environmental protection

Note: Instruments specifically targeting the management of biodiversity are covered under Question 2. Please use this question to provide information on instruments addressing other environmental issues (e.g. addressing pollution of land and water, deforestation, climate change, water use or flood protection). If an instrument addresses both biodiversity and other aspects of environmental protection, please indicate this using a cross-reference to your answer to Question 2.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Protection of the environment complying with EU law is in the responsibility of the Federal Countries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The expansion of farms in favourable locations gets increasingly difficult because of strict environmental laws regulating i.a. the minimal distance to other buildings and emission of dust, smell or noise.

Future needs

Networking between the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management and the Federal Countries to ensure sustainable growth of competitive farms with maximal protection of the environment.

4. Overall development of the livestock sector

Note: This question relates to broad strategic-level instruments addressing the livestock sector as a whole, such as national livestock development strategies or laws. Instruments related to specific aspects of livestock development should be described under other questions as and where relevant.

Legislation

No

Policy

No

If provisions are in place or under development do/will they include:

Particular provisions aimed at supporting livestock keeping in harsh production environments

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, favourable access to credit or livestock services, facilitation of market access).

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Particular provisions aimed at supporting large-scale, high external input or export-oriented production systems or supporting management practices associated with such systems

Note: Please consider direct and indirect forms of support (e.g. grants or subsidies, subsidized inputs, favourable access to credit or livestock services, support for infrastructure development or mechanization).

Legislation

No

Policy

No

Details of the measure(s)

The development of the livestock sector is organised privately but has to comply with general agricultural and civic law and policies.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

5. Management of and access to rangelands or other grazing lands

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

In Austria all land is owned privately so the decision lies with the owner(s). For the grazing of ecologically valuable marginal land

subsidies are available. In Austria modalities for buying agricultural land and/or premises are regulated by the Federal Countries in the "Grundverkehrsgesetze" and in the regulations based on these laws. Basically acquisition of ownership or right of use of agricultural or forested land or of a corresponding residential or farm building is subject to approval of the "Grundverkehrsbehörde". Furthermore land use is strongly influenced by the „Raumordnungsgesetze“ of the Federal Countries with the connected designation of areas.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Underused grazing land is lost to shrubs or converted into forests.

Future needs

More research on and understanding of the possibilities of use and productivity of marginal grazing land is needed.

6. Establishment of livestock farms or holdings

Note: This question relates to planning rules related to the size, location, ownership, registration, etc. of livestock farms or holdings.

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The legal base is the Landwirtschaftsgesetz (see Section 1, Point 1). Laws of the Federal Countries regulate the selling of farmland and the building of farmsteads and stables.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

As the local laws may differ between Federal Countries no uniform impact on the management of animal genetic resources can be noted.

Future needs

The process of flexibilisation has started already.

7. Establishment and operation of civil society organizations in the livestock sector

Note: Instruments specifically related to organizations focused on breeding (genetic improvement) activities are covered in Section 1 (Question 5.2). Please use the present question to provide information on instruments of a more general nature (e.g. related to the operation of cooperative societies or community organizations).

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

The legal base is the Genossenschaftsgesetz (Civil Society Acts). [http://www.jusline.at/Genossenschaftsgesetz_\(GenG\).html](http://www.jusline.at/Genossenschaftsgesetz_(GenG).html)
The policy is laid down in <http://www.lebensministerium.at/suchergebnisse.html?queryString=genossenschaftswesen>

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The Civil Societies are important agricultural economic systems in Austria.

Future needs

Closer relations between the Austrian Civil Societies.

8. Participation of livestock keepers in decision-making related to the development of the livestock sector

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

As most organisations dealing with the development of livestock are private or civil society organizations the members are free to participate in the decisions.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The participation of breeders in the decisions about the future development of animal genetic resources supported by scientific results has led to well adapted and profitable breeds of livestock. If the responsibility for the decisions remains with the farmers this process will continue.

Future needs

The increasing share of the integrated sector in poultry and recently pig production could affect the free decision of farmers.

9. Prevention, preparedness and response to natural or human-induced disasters

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

If instruments are place or under development, do/will they include any provisions specifically targeting:

Animal genetic resources

Note: For example, measures targeting the protection of at-risk breeds.

Legislation Policy

Livestock in general

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

The responsibility to prepare for natural or human induced disasters lies with the Federal Countries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Most measures are centered on avoiding the loss of or saving human life. Management of animal genetic resources is affected only indirectly e.g. by not being allowed to build stables in an endangered area.

Future needs

The inclusion of animal genetic resources into the action plans of the Federal Countries.

SECTION 5: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please provide information on any aspects of your country's legal and policy framework that affect animal genetic resources and their management but are not covered by any of the questions above.