



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

Country: Finland

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)

Act on Animal Breeding (794/93), act on horse management (796/1993), act on reindeer husbandry (45/2001), act on animal welfare (247/1996), act on animal diseases(55/1980), act on animal identification system. National programme for farm animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal breeding law applies to animal breeding activities, as well as the associated animals and their embryos and germ cell processing, trade, import and export. National programme deals with maintaining internationally competitive position of animal breeding, conservation and sustainable use of the local and endangered breeds.

Future needs

Law for access and benefit sharing of the farm animal genetic resources.

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 No

Details of the measure(s)

Act on reindeer husbandry 45/2001.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

By maintenance of fences, help to keep herds together.

Future needs

3. Surveying and monitoring of animal genetic resources

Legislation Yes

Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Act on Animal breeding; herdbook and performance recording. Act on the animal identification system (238/2010). National

programme encourage researching indigenous breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Identifying farm animal breed available, genetic variability, helps to anticipate future trends and threats.

Future needs

Surveying and monitoring need to be extended to cover all livestock breeds.

4. Official recognition of livestock breeds

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act on animal Breeding: herdbooks and performance recording.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

For some local breeds, actions are as recommendations in the national programme. Promotes the genetic progress in pure breeds, without decreasing the genetic diversity.

Future needs

Register for all breeds needed, which will allow performance recording schemes. Without a proper recording system, there is little information of production capacity or genetic abilities.

5. Animal breeding and genetic improvement strategies

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act on animal breeding. Policies of breeders's associations.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal breeding goals must not be harmful or compromise the welfare of animals. An objective in national programme is to maintaining farm animal breeds competitive for future needs. Breeding program must be planned so that progress in different traits is achieved in balance.

Future needs

More research in genomics. In the future, breeding program to local breeds also. Balanced animal production and sustainable development.

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

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act on animal breeding, policies on breeders' associations.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal breeding law to keeping herdbooks and performance recording (FABA, Figen Oy, ProAgria, Hippos). Certificate for pedigree based on herdbooks. Organizations executive the National programme for Animal Genetic Resources Programme in their own strategies.

Future needs

Recording system and herdbooks for all farm animal breeds is needed.

5.2 The establishment and operation of breeders' associations

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

By animal breeding law, the association must be accepted as breeders' association, if it will correspond for recording to herdbook, to contribute adequate genetic progress, and fulfilling the other tasks and conditions imposed by the Ministry.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Breed with own association is monitored in more detail.

Future needs

Farm animal breed that have no association, might benefit of some general organisation.

6. Use of reproductive biotechnologies (excluding zoosanitary issues)

Note: Zoosanitary issues are covered in Section 3.

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Decision of the Ministry 22/2000: reproductive actions (artificial insemination, embryo transferring) requires a licence. In professional operation quality certification is needed together with professional staff. Licence are valid for a fixed terms (5 year)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Professional staff has a key (and crucial) role in farms.

Future needs

Education for broaden the awareness of reproductive actors for animal genetics resources.

7. Genetic modification of animals used for food and agriculture

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

(377/1995) Gene Technology Act , (247/1996) Animal welfare act.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Genetic modification in animals is regulated.

Future needs

More research needed.

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

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Animal health act. National programme's main objective is sustainable use and maintenance of domestic livestock breeds.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

In general, no legal or regulatory barriers, with a few exceptions due to animal protectional reasons (for instance Belgian Blue cattle).

Future needs

9. Conservation programmes for animal genetic resources

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act on genetic resources under construction. National programme for farm animal genetic resources (2004).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The programme is dealing with bees, cattle, chickens, dogs, fur animals, goats, horses, pigs, reindeer, and sheep. The main objective in the programme is the conservation of indigenous breeds and the research.

Future needs

Reforming the programme.

Do these measures include provisions specifically related to:

9.1 *In vivo* conservation

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

1) Determination of the population 2) construction of the database with pedigrees 3) evaluation of inbreeding in production of the mating proposal for new generation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

9.2 Cryoconservation

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act on animal breeding: general regulations for collecting and transfer of sperm, eggs and embryos. National programme gives to recommendations to the actions for long-term conservation of endangered breeds as semen and embryos. Includes breeds in cattle, sheep, horse.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Plausible genebank with high doses of sperm with low costs. The whole genome is stored in embryos, also mitochondrios.

Future needs

Cryoconservation for all farm animal breeds.

10. Research and development related to animal genetic resources management

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Animal breeding law to monitor that breeding goals and development are not against animal welfare ; law for animal diseases (including sperm and oocytes); law for animal welfare (procedures and operations that are allowed in research). An EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes was drafted in 2010. It's provisions will be duly incorporated into the Finnish legislation within two years of the entry into force of the new directive.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

One important action plan in Finnish National Programme effort to broaden public awareness for the farm genetic resources. Research is known to play outstanding role in determining and monitor the genetic diversity status of local farm animals breeds. Research has very important role also to develop new potential (special) products to improve the economically status.

Future needs

Law for access and benefit sharing the genetic resources

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)

EU legislation.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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)

New law for genetic resources under development.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Purpose of this act will be to provide availability of genetic resources together with traditional knowledge associated to them, as well as access to the benefits derived from them and equal sharing to promote the protection of genetic resources as a part of biodiversity conservation.

Future needs

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)

Food act 23/2006

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

2. Production and marketing of organic products

Legislation Policy

Details of the measure(s)

EU law and regulations for organic production monitoring by Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira. The local ELY centres are controlling the production of the organic products.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The engangered/local breeds might achieve some additional profits via organic production.

Future needs

While organic production is highly controlled, organic + local breed production might need own production brand which would

ensure economic profits.

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

Legislation

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

National programme encourage to develop the production in an economic viable activity.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

The goal is the have local breeds also economically important => increasing interest of the small local breeds. Some local breeds have or are close to get a production trademark.

Future needs

Education, promoting, research.

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

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

In national programme: standards in keeping animals in Finnish landrace chicken programme.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Level of animal welfare needs to meet special standards.

Future needs

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)

The Food Act 23/2006 (amendment 643/2010) controlled by Finnish Safety for Food Authority Evira. Animal health act (55/1980).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Major impacts on animal genetic resources: stocks might get eliminated, isolated or kept under restrictions or prohibitions.

Future needs

Rescue plans for animal resources.

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)

Act on the animal identification system (238/2010)Food act (23/2006).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal identification, health, welfare, animal by-products, public health and food safety in the European Union legislation or animal diseases between animal and human infectious diseases, and farm subsidies for national legislation require. To ensure food safety and handling, as well as good health food and other provisions of the food quality. To ensure that the information given about food is correct and fair and not misleading. To protect the consumer against food regulations, food, and health risks of financial loss. To ensure the traceability of food. To secure high quality food control, and contribute to the improvement of food business operators operating conditions.

Future needs

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 or 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)

Act on animal welfare, act on animal health, act on animal identification system, national programme for animal resources. Finnish Food authority Evira is controlling the execution of the acts.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Major impacts on animal genetic resources: stocks might get eliminated, isolated or kept under restrictions or prohibitions.

Future needs

To improve the registration system for some local breeds, that all livestock keepers could be reached.

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)

Animal breeding act. National programme. Act on the Animal Identification System (238/2010). This Act lays down the provisions on the identification, registration and tracing of operators responsible for animals, of animal holdings and of animals (*animal identification system*).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal identification, health, welfare, animal by-products, public health and food safety in the European Union legislation or animal diseases between animal and human infectious diseases, and farm subsidies for national legislation require.

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)

Safe-guard measures by EU.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

For protecting own animal resources.

Future needs

New tools (research) for rapid diagnostic methods to prevent spread of new diseases.

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)

Animals, embryos and gametes exporting to non-EU-countries must comply with the export conditions imposed by the authorities of the country. Act on animal breeding, act on animal identification system.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Herdbook for pedigree information, identification needed.

Future needs

1.4 Zoosanitary rules related to the use of reproductive technologies

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Act on 55/1980

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Animal disease means this Act from any disease or infection which, directly or indirectly, to another animal or person. The animal in this Law animals in addition to their germ cells.

Future needs

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

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

2010/238 act on animal identification system / national programme request to register as animal keeper.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

This Act prescribes animal keepers and animal housing sites to be registered as well as animals to be identified.

Future needs

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

Legislation

Details of the measure(s)

Act on Animal health. Policy of National programme.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Major impacts on animal genetic resources: whole stocks or populations might get eliminated, isolated or kept under restrictions or prohibitions. Because of expectations, valuable animals could be saved. Veterinary authorities may make exceptions for culling of endangered animals. However, exception is conditional on that the animals are kept in places which has been registered in advance to Finnish Food Authority Evira for this purpose.

Future needs

For possible outbreaks, an expert group has to be set up, in which is called the veterinary authorities, academics, counseling, and breeding associations' representatives. The working group plans to adequate preparedness programs to preserve endangered breeds of animal diseases. The working group will be convened when necessary.

1.7 Compulsory culling in the event of outbreaks of specific diseases

Legislation

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?

Details of the measure(s)

Animal health act. National programme. Veterinary authorities may make exceptions for culling of endangered animals. However, exception is conditional on that the animals are kept in places which has been registered in advance to Finnish Food Authority Evira for this purpose. Breeders' association FABAs has mutual disaster response Agreement with other Nordic countries.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Major impacts on animal genetic resources: stocks might get eliminated, isolated or kept under restrictions or prohibitions. Because of expectations, valuable animals could be saved.

Future needs

For possible outbreaks, an expert group has to be set up, in which is called the veterinary authorities, academics, counseling, and breeding associations' representatives. The working group plans to adequate preparedness programs to preserve endangered breeds of animal diseases. The working group will be convened when necessary.

2. Animal welfare

Legislation

Yes

Policy

Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Act on animal medication (27.6.1997/617); act on animal protection (4.4.1996/247) In national programme: standards in keeping animals (chicken).

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Level of animal welfare needs to meet special standards. Purpose of this Act is to protect animals in the best possible way from suffering, pain and distress. Purpose of the Act is to promote animal welfare and good treatment.

Future needs

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)

Act on support for rural development (1443/2006), act for reindeer husbandry, Sámi people act (kolttalaki) 253/1995

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Purpose of this Act is to provide for subsidies, designed to replace the north of adverse natural conditions for agriculture-related harm, to develop and promote rural sustainable use of renewable natural resources and improve the environment and to promote the welfare of farm animals. Purpose of the same people Act is to promote the koltta population and koltta area living conditions and opportunities, as well as to maintain and promote the koltta Sámi culture.

Future needs

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

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

New act for genetic resources. National programme for animal genetic resources.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Purpose of this act will be to provide availability of genetic resources together with traditional knowledge associated to them, as well as access to the benefits derived from them and equal sharing to promote the protection of genetic resources as a part of biodiversity conservation.

Future needs

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

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

- 1) Conservation of biological diversity;
- 2) The natural beauty and landscape values;
- 3) Natural resources and the natural environment, sustainable use of resources;
- 4) Promotion of public awareness and the natural increase in the hobby, as well as
- 5) The nature of research promotion.

Future needs

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

Policy

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

Policy

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 Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act on Reindeer husbandry, environmental protection act, act on support rural development

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Purpose of this Act is to improve the reindeer husbandry and other natural sources of the structure and operating conditions, as well as to promote economic activity and the reindeer husbandry and development of the rural areas to sustainable development principles.

Future needs

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

Legislation Yes Policy Yes

Details of the measure(s)

Act on Reindeer husbandry, environmental protection act, act on support rural development.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Purpose of these Acts are to promote and diversity in reindeer husbandry and natural resources to be economic profitable.

Future needs

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 No Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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 No Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation No Policy No

Details of the measure(s)

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

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

Legislation

No

Policy

Under development

If instruments are in 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

Yes

Livestock in general

Legislation

No

Policy

Details of the measure(s)

Act in genetic resources under construction.

Impact on animal genetic resources management

Future needs

In possible disasters, an expert group has to be set up (as well as in case of disease outbreaks). An adequate preparedness programs to preserve endangered breeds. The working group will be convened when necessary.

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.

Submit by e-mail